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Wright breaks Arsenal record

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Egypt sees hope for peace process

By JAY BUSHINSKY and news agencies

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak yesterday called Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's visit "encouraging" and said there are signs the Middle East peace process could move forward.

"All these statements we consider very encouraging and everybody has the impression that there is hope for the process to move forward," Mubarak told a news conference after talks with

Thousands rally for peace, Page 2

Albright in Alexandria. She held about two-and-a-half hours of talks with Mubarak and Foreign Minister Amr Moussa in the seaside Ras el-Ten palace. "We are going to continue discussions and cooperation," he said.

Later yesterday, Albright met with Saudi Arabia's King Fahd in the Red Sea port city of Jeddah, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said.

SPA said Crown Prince Abdullah attended the meeting between the monarch and Albright in King Fahd's office at al-Salam Palace. It gave no other details. Albright, who flew to Jeddah from Alexandria, earlier met Saudi Minister of Foreign Affairs Prince Saud al-Faisal and "discussed current conditions in the Middle East and ways to support the peace process," SPA said.

She is due to meet the foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states - Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and Oman - today.

In Damascus, President Hafez Assad told Albright during talks on Friday that Syria is still committed to making peace with Israel, but reiterated the conditions for resuming the negotiations broken off over a year ago.

"Talks [with Israel] should resume from the point where they left off," Assad's spokesman Jibril Kourieh quoted the president as telling Albright during a four-hour meeting.

"President Assad reiterated Syria's commitment to achieve a just and comprehensive peace on the basis of the Madrid conference, Security Council resolutions, and the land-for-peace principle," Kourieh said.

Albright discussed with Assad how to revive the stalled Syrian-Israeli negotiations, he said.

"Both reviewed efforts being exerted to revive the peace process on all tracks and the position of each of the parties concerned," Kourieh said.

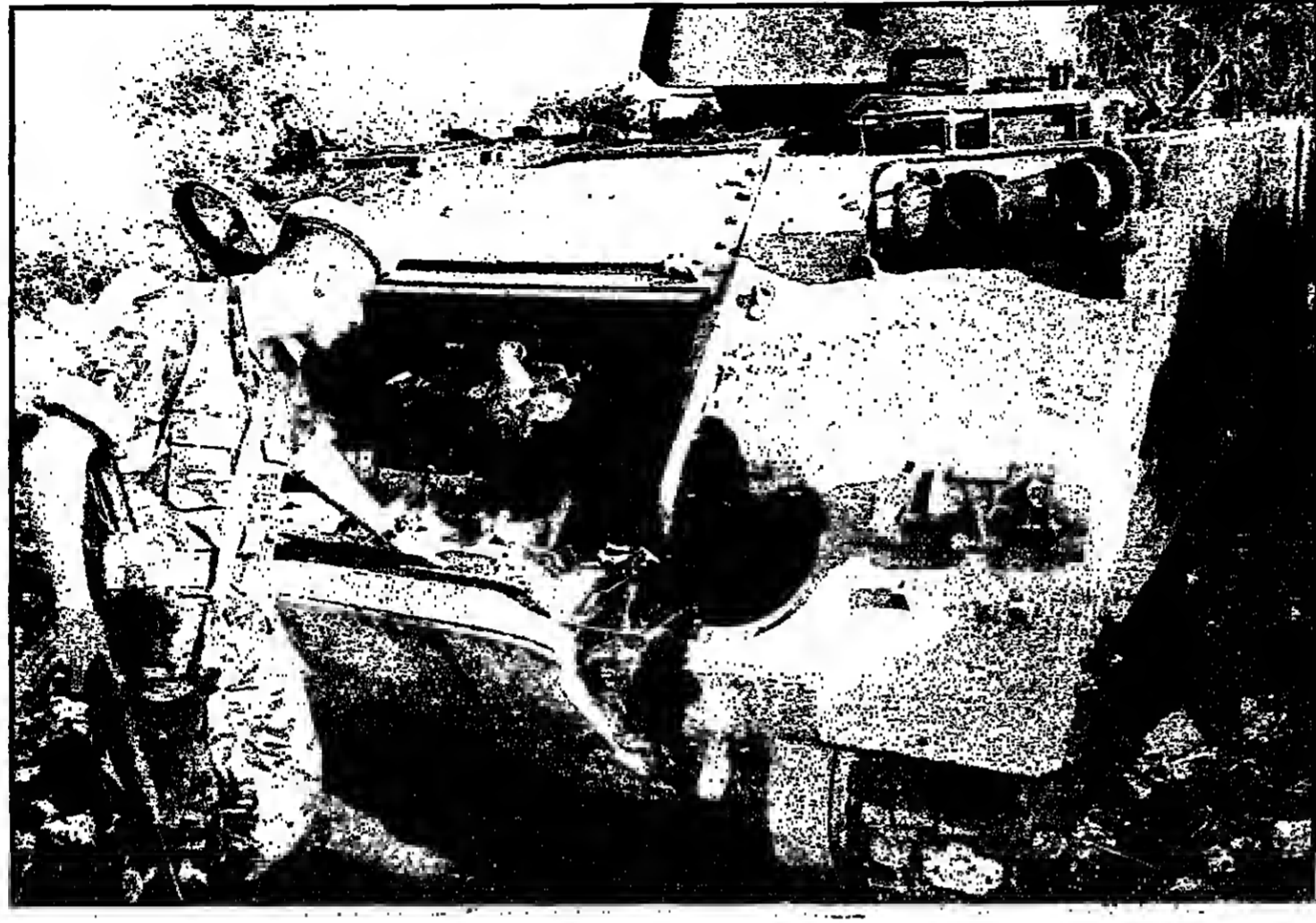
US officials said Albright's talks with Assad were "exploratory." No further US comment was immediately available.

Foreign Minister Farouk Shara and Syrian Ambassador to Washington Walid Mualem attended the Assad-Albright meeting at the presidential palace, Kourieh said. Also present was US special Middle East peace envoy Dennis Ross.

Hizbullah leader's son killed

3 other gunmen, 6 Lebanese troops killed in clashes with IDF

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH



A Lebanese soldier yesterday inspects the damage to an armored personnel carrier hit by fire from an IAF helicopter during a raid on Friday near Arabsalim in southern Lebanon. (Reuters)

IDF soldiers killed four Hizbullah gunmen, including 18-year-old Hadi Nasrallah, the son of Hizbullah leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, during fierce fighting in southern Lebanon on Friday night.

No IDF casualties were reported in the battle, which lasted several hours. It was reported that IDF troops brought back two of the four Hizbullah bodies to Israel.

Senior officers said the bodies of the dead terrorists, including that of the young Nasrallah, would be buried in Israel. They said the bodies might be used in an exchange for the body of Third Petty Officer Itamar Ilya, who was killed during the failed naval commando raid in Lebanon last Friday.

The officers stressed that the IDF had no previous knowledge that Nasrallah's son was in the area, though they said the fact Israel has his remains might speed up a possible exchange. The IDF Spokesman said troops also fought back a large stock of Hizbullah weapons.

Israel Radio reported that Sheikh Nasrallah reacted to the killing of his son by troops of the elite Egzoz commando unit by saying that he "thanks God for making his son a martyr." He said Israel should not count on exploiting his son's death and that "Palestine will only be liberated by people like those in the Lebanese resistance, who are willing to sacrifice their lives to free their land."

The spokesman said the clashes began when Golan troops patrolling in the northern sector of the security zone in the Soujoud area spotted several groups of gunmen and fired at them from close range, killing at least four and wounding others. The spokesman said the fighting took place in a densely vegetated area on difficult terrain.

During the ensuing fighting, which lasted for several hours, Hizbullah gunmen and Lebanese Army soldiers fired mortars, machine-guns, and missiles at IDF troops. IAF helicopters sent to the area fired at Lebanese Army targets, destroying two armored personnel carriers, the army said.

The Lebanese Army claimed that IAF helicopters fired at Lebanese troops, killing six soldiers and wounding five. They also claimed a civilian woman wounded in the attack later died of her wounds. In addition, the Lebanese said the IDF also damaged an armored personnel carrier.

"Anyone who fires anti-aircraft missiles at IDF troops and the IAF must realize that they will be shot at and destroyed," the IDF Spokesman said.

The spokesman stressed that while the IDF is not interested in harming Lebanese Army troops, if they choose to join in the fighting, they turn themselves into a target.

Lebanese Army Gen. Emile Lahoud said yesterday that the killing of six of his troops in an Israeli air raid has motivated the army to continue confronting Israel until all their occupied land is liberated.

"We are strong, in Lebanon and Syria, because of our unity in one trench, confronting this enemy until it alters its attitude and gives back what it has extorted," an army statement quoted Lahoud as telling troops, during a visit to the site of Friday's attack near Arabsalim, north of Nabatiya.

Hizbullah spokesman Nayef Krayem told reporters yesterday that Hizbullah lost contact with four of its members after fighting with IDF troops, but that one is missing and one had returned to base.

"Two of our fighters were martyred yesterday, and one is the son of Hassan Nasrallah," he said.

Israeli, PA officials meet on security

Israel denies abducting Hamas official

By STEVE RODAN, MOHAMMED NAJIB, and news agencies

Palestinian and Israeli security officials met over the weekend in what both sides termed a productive session and the Palestinian Authority later said that it would resume its fight against Islamic terrorism.

"The results of the meeting were encouraging," an Israeli participant said.

"We have the impression that the PA is preparing a serious plan to fight terrorism, but we are waiting to see the results of these efforts."

Palestinian security sources confirmed that following PA Chairman Yasser Arafat's meeting with US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright on Friday, a new campaign to combat Islamic terrorism will be launched. But the sources said the effort will not be dictated by Israel.

"We refuse to allow terrorism, but we will not submit to Israeli dictates," a PA security source said.

The declared security coordination comes as Hamas's Izzadin Kassam military wing claimed on Friday that an Israeli undercover unit had abducted Hamas militant Ibrahim Makadmeh from the Gaza Strip. Israeli and PA security sources dismissed the claim, saying it was an attempt to get both Israel and the PA to stop searching for Makadmeh, who is

linked to terror attacks against Israel and subversive activities against the PA.

At the meeting, Israeli and Palestinian security officials discussed intelligence relating to Hamas plans to resume its bombing campaign inside Israel. Both sides quickly agreed on the need to maintain a high alert and the IDF said it will continue its inter-

national closure of certain areas of the territories.

Despite the closure, hundreds of Palestinians exited from PA-controlled cities ostensibly blocked by the IDF. Many of them left the Ramallah area through dirt roads that bypassed Beit El. Border policemen stopped some of the traffic and Palestinian sources said that a 20-year-old driver, Aziz Mohammed, was beaten by border policemen.

Aziz told *The Jerusalem Post* that he is a corporal in the Palestinian Preventive Security apparatus headed by Jibril Rajoub.

"I yelled at them in Hebrew that I'm a policeman and then the border guards let me go. This closure is like a cat-and-mouse game," he said.

On Friday, Arafat, speaking in English, told Channel 2 that if the current deadlock in negotiations continued the result could be "Everything, war and all the confusion what happened in the area."

Despite the deadlock, Arafat said the peace process is not dead. "I am doing enough, 100 percent. But no one can give to you 100 percent results," Arafat said. "Yesterday and the day before I had arrested 123."

He reiterated his belief that the bombers responsible for the recent attacks in Jerusalem had come from abroad.

Israel has said that, even if the bombers were not from Palestinian-ruled areas, they had been aided by people in those areas.

"We view positively the positions expressed by Mrs. Albright... the most important of which is her safeguarding the peace agreements, the Oslo accord and peace in the entire Middle East and also her rejection of any unilateral act that hinders this process," Arafat told reporters in Ramallah on Friday night.

Asked by Channel 2 if he had a message to give to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Arafat said: "Let us return back to the negotiations to protect the peace process. Peace is not only a Palestinian need, it is a Palestinian need, an Israeli need, Arab need, international need."

Histadrut steps up sanctions

By DAVID HARRIS and film

The Histadrut is stepping up its action against the government today through a series of work stoppages, with tens of thousands of workers planning to stop work for varying amounts of time for information meetings.

At the National Insurance Institute, workers will not receive the public or collect funds. Bezeq's 144 and 188 operator services will be affected, as will the company's repair service. Stoppages by the 30,000 workers of Kapat Holim Clalit will cause disruptions in hospitals, clinics and administrative offices.

Services by the courts, Mekorot, the Israel Electric Corp., the Public Works Department, the Income Tax and Property Tax Commission and other bodies also will be affected. The country's 1,250 firefighters will handle only emergencies. In Holon, 1,100 municipal workers are to strike to protest plans to privatize the city's sanitation department. The 1,700 Agriculture Ministry workers also are implementing sanctions; they will not receive the public, answer phones or process mail, nor will they process imports, issue import or export permits or administer vaccinations to animals.

Maich Yehuda Regional Council workers are to strike to protest the non-payment of their salaries.

See HISTADRUT, Page 2

Moroccan Davis Cup team won't play here

By ORI LEWIS

Morocco's Davis Cup tennis team will not be coming to Ramat Hasharon to play Israel this coming weekend. Notification to this effect was received from the International Tennis Federation (ITF) on Friday evening.

The Moroccan tennis authorities, who were turned down twice after asking the ITF to relocate the tie to a neutral venue for "security reasons," decided to pull out of the September 19-21 encounter, leaving Israel the winner by default.

Israel is thus assured of another year in the competition's Euro/African Zone Group I. The opponent in next year's competition will be announced when the draw is made in London next month.

The cancellation of the tie is the first manifestation of a sporting boycott of Israel since foreign basketball and soccer teams asked for games scheduled here to be moved to a neutral venue following the recent terrorist bombings in Jerusalem. All such requests have been turned down by UEFA and FIFA, soccer's and basketball's respective governing bodies.

Israel Tennis Association chairman David Harnik has no doubt the Moroccan's decision to pull out of the tie was a political one. "We regret the decision, which has resulted from political considerations," he said.

"The very fact that an Israeli and a Moroccan - who was supposed to come to Israel for the tie - are currently playing as a team in the doubles event at the ATP tournament in Tashkent, strengthens the ideal that sport precedes politics. It does not appear to be the case in this

instance, however," Harnik said yesterday.

Morocco's No. 1 player, Hicham Azazi, and Israeli No. 2 Eyal Ran are playing together at the ATP Tour event in Uzbekistan, where they have reached the doubles final.

Harnik said the ITA would not be asking for compensation and would also not be seeking punitive measures against the Moroccans.

"We have hardly had any expenses and the moment we heard of the Moroccan's decision, we stopped all preparations for the tie," he said.

This is not the first time a Davis Cup opponent has boycotted Israel. In 1988 India refused to play here under the same security pretext.

Harnik said he expects the ITF to impose a minimal punishment on the Moroccans. By failing to turn up, he noted, "Morocco has already been relegated and if the precedent of the Indian boycott is followed, then they may also receive a one-year suspension from the Davis Cup."

Azazi, interviewed on Channel 1 from Tashkent last week, said he was looking forward to playing in Israel, although he said the final decision on whether the team would travel to Tel Aviv would be made at a much higher level.

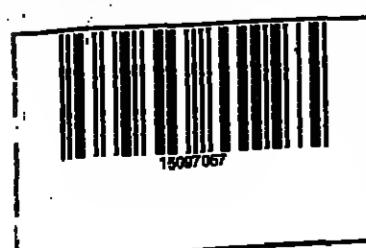
Local reports last week had said that, despite the ITF's double rejection for a relocation, Morocco's King Hassan II would personally decide whether the team would travel to Israel.

Moroccan No. 2 Karim Alami has played here, competing in the ATP event at Ramat Hasharon in 1995.

See MOROCCO, Page 2

Did you remember?

Daylight saving time ended at midnight last night, when clocks were turned back one hour.



Doctor severs, reattaches woman's head

LONDON (Reuters) - A doctor in Britain has cut off a woman's head in a pioneering operation and screwed it back on again. The patient survived.

Bridget Fudgell was operated on to correct a crippling condition which meant her face pointed permanently downwards, newspapers reported yesterday.

In a 17-hour operation, surgeon Steve Gill detached the 36-year-old former secretary's head from her spinal column, leaving it connected by just the spinal chord, key blood vessels and the skin at the front of her neck.

Gill then cut a wedge out of the base of her

skull and the top vertebra before fixing her head back with a metal plate and two screws, leaving her looking forward.

Fudgell suffers from a bone condition called ankylosing spondylitis, a rheumatic condition which progressively fuses bones in the spine together.

"But after she broke her neck in a fall four years ago, her head became fixed facing down. Fudgell said she was petrified after hearing details of the surgery, but thanked Gill for changing her life.

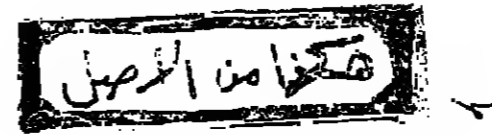
"I had become a recluse. I was too scared to go out and I couldn't cross the road because I

couldn't see straight ahead. Everyday things were impossible.

"I was in so much pain. I was in so much agony. I just thought it couldn't get any worse. So I gave it a go. I can't thank the doctors enough," she said.

Gill did the operation in February but only presented it at the British Society of Neurosurgeons last week.

"There comes a point where the head is loose relative to the neck and you have to start maneuvering the neck around, avoiding any pressure on any of these structures. That is quite a precarious time," he told newspapers.



NEWS

in brief

Two Israelis killed in Congo crash

Two Israeli aid workers were among 19 people killed in a plane crash in Congo on Friday.

They have been identified as Boaz Falko, 64, and Noah Gavy, 52, both of Poriah Elite who recently immigrated from the US. They had been helping in a program to feed Rwandan refugees.

The plane, carrying passengers to a church convention in the east of Congo, crashed into a hill near the western shore of Lake Tanganyika, a UN official said.

Jerusalem Post Staff

Ramallah woman attacks border policeman

A 21-year-old Ramallah resident tried to stab a border policeman with a kitchen knife yesterday afternoon while he was on patrol near the city.

The policeman was not injured; the knife merely damaged his flak jacket. Police arrested the woman and are investigating the incident.

Itim

Two killed in head-on collision

Two persons were killed and two others injured in a collision between two cars on the Jordan Valley Highway. One of the cars apparently swerved out of its lane and hit an oncoming car head-on.

Itim

Boy drowns off Tel Aviv beach

A boy drowned off the Tel Aviv coast last night. He and his brother, from Sur Bahir, near Jerusalem, had been swimming, when the waves carried them into deeper water. One brother managed to get himself back to shore, but could not save the other.

Itim

Bentsur, Russian envoy discuss missiles

Foreign Ministry Director-General Eitan Bentsur on Friday met with Russia's ambassador to Israel, Mikhail Bogdanov, and told him that Moscow must stop the transfer of technology to Iran for the production of ballistic missiles.

Bentsur also warned that if Iran acquires a nuclear capability, this would endanger Israel, the region and the whole world. Bogdanov agreed to continue contacts on the issue, which is to be discussed between Foreign Minister David Levy and his Russian counterpart Yevgeny Primakov at the UN General Assembly later this month.

Jerusalem Post Staff

Jerusalem mufti calls for destruction of US

The Palestinian Authority-appointed mufti of Jerusalem has called for the destruction of the US, saying Washington's alliance with Israel constitutes a partnership between blasphemers and terrorists.

"Allah, destroy America, its agents, its allies," Sheik Akram Sabri said at his sermon at the Al-Aksa mosque on Friday. "Allah, raise the flag of Islam on Al-Aksa, Jerusalem, Palestine and the rest of the Islamic countries."

Sabri said the goal of US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's visit to the Middle East was to support the Israeli position "regarding false security and fanatical settlements."

Sabri, in a sermon broadcast on the Voice of Palestine radio, said the US position points to an alliance of "blasphemers, terrorists, haters forming a partnership against Islam."

Steve Rodan

US official apologizes to Weizman

President Ezer Weizman on Friday received a letter of apology from US State Department spokesman James Rubin, who had leaked contents of the president's conversation with US Secretary Madeleine Albright to the press.

In the conversation held over breakfast on Wednesday, Weizman called for pressure to be put on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to push forward the stalled peace negotiations.

The contents that were leaked caused a furor and further strained relations between the president and prime minister. Rubin was later instructed by Albright to apologize for his part in the affair. Rubin apologized for the embarrassment caused to the president.

Batsheva Tsur

Palestinians said running out of medicine

The Palestinian Authority is running out of medicine due to the closure, a Palestinian relief association said yesterday.

"Fifty percent of the medical supplies in the West Bank and Gaza Strip have been depleted," the Union of Palestinian Relief Committees said in a statement. "If the closure is not lifted, the remaining supplies will be exhausted in approximately two weeks."

Reuters

MOROCCO

Continued from Page 1

Morocco's appeal to the ITF followed the two Jerusalem bombings - at the Mahaneh Yehuda market in July and at the Ben-Yehuda pedestrian mall earlier this month.

While both requests were turned down vehemently by the ITF management committee, which met in New York during the US Open, Hamik said he had received indications from some committee

members - who saw the horrific TV pictures of the outrages - that there was a case for considering a neutral venue.

Although the ITA had given a written assurance that all necessary precautions would be taken to guarantee the visitors' safety, this was not enough to change the Moroccans' minds.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman last night expressed regret over the Moroccan decision.

"We believe that sport should not be mixed with politics," the spokesman said.

To Judy Dagan and family

Our sincerest condolences on the passing of your father

SEYMOUR SAMUELS

Bet Habonim

With great sadness we announce the passing of **JULIETTE KON** on August 30, 1997.

The funeral took place at Kibbutz Einat on August 31. Her children and grandchildren

Kidnapped man found in Ashkelon

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

On Friday morning, nearly 48 hours after his disappearance, Bnei Brak resident Ya'acov Schwartz, 63, was discovered lying in a burning abandoned building in an Ashkelon residential neighborhood, exhausted but alive.

His hands and legs were tied with plastic handcuffs, a keffiyeh was on his head and a Book of Psalms was lying on his chest.

Hours later, Schwartz told police from his hospital bed that he had been kidnapped by two people disguised as IDF soldiers who spoke Arabic.

Shortly before 5 p.m. on Wednesday he had stopped at the main exit of Ashkelon and picked up an IDF soldier. The soldier

asked him to pick up a friend, who was waiting at the next junction.

Schwartz said the two, who behaved strangely, attempted to strangle him and bear him. After taking control of the car, they tied his hands and legs and covered his head.

Schwartz told police that the two spoke Arabic and he remembered hearing the sound of waves. After that, he said, he couldn't remember anything.

At a press conference on Friday afternoon, Lachish police chief Nitzav Moshe Grady said police had not ruled out criminal or nationalistic motives.

"At this point, we are putting together a puzzle, some of the parts fit in with a criminal theory and others fit a nationalistic motive. When we have gathered

all the pieces and complete the puzzle we will publish our findings. We will not supply the public with partial information," Grady said.

Grady also lashed out at fire brigade officials and others who, in a radio interview, claimed Schwartz was found wearing a keffiyeh on his head and with a Koran placed on his chest. Some claimed his clothes were torn and that he had been beaten. Other conflicting reports claimed someone had made an anonymous call to the fire brigade notifying it that Schwartz was in the building.

"The irresponsible interviews heard on the radio were made by people who have nothing to do with the police investigation and making such claims can hamper the investigation," he said.

Schwartz was found by traffic policewoman Marcelle Levy. She was on duty safeguarding school buses when she noticed smoke pouring out of an abandoned building in the Ramat Eshkol neighborhood just near the town's cemetery. The building is situated 20 to 40 meters from residential buildings.

Levy alerted the fire brigade, which arrived within minutes. Together with firefighters, Levy and her partner entered the smoke-filled building to ensure that no one was inside. Inside she saw Schwartz lying on the floor.

"As we entered, we saw a man trussed up and lying on the left side of the room, he was murmuring something and his eyes fluttered," she said.

MDA took Schwartz to Barzilai

Hospital, where he was listed in good condition, suffering from exhaustion and light smoke inhalation.

On Israel Radio, Schwartz's brother Yechiel thanked all those that had taken part in the search.

"We never lost hope and knew all along that the security forces would find him. I thank the Almighty and the IDF troops, police and all those volunteers and yeshiva students who took part in the search," he said.

Over 700 police, IDF troops, General Security Service agents, and volunteers took part in the widespread search that started early Wednesday evening after Schwartz's abandoned car was found at the entrance to Kibbutz Netiv Ha'asara, close to the Erez checkpoint.



Protesters hold up Israeli and Palestinian flags at last night's rally in Tel Aviv.

(Reuters)

Peace rally blasts Netanyahu, celebrates fourth anniversary of Oslo

By HELEN KAYE and Itim

Activists from Peace Now and the Labor, Meretz and Hadash parties gathered at the Tel Aviv Museum plaza last night to celebrate the Oslo Accords' fourth anniversary and protest the Netanyahu government's policies.

"Peace will overcome the delusions of this regime. Oslo will not die," former prime minister Shimon Peres said.

"Four years ago peace was born in Oslo. In the last year and a quarter Netanyahu's government has tried to break Oslo. Oslo was no mistake, the Netanyahu government is the big mistake."

"Netanyahu's policies are

leading us on the path of Bosnia and Belfast ... behind the door, the next war already is waiting for us. The handwriting is on the wall and only the blind or members of the government are unable to read it," Labor Party Chairman Ehud Barak told the crowd.

Leah Rabin and Meretz Party Chairman Yossi Sarid also spoke.

Palestinian Legislative Council Speaker Ahmed Qurie sent in a letter that was read.

"In this flameless and lightless period, let us join hands and together firmly grip the torch of peace," he wrote. "Together let us breathe new life into this process and rebuild trust and recreate an atmosphere where

confidence between our peoples prevails so that we both realize our common dream in this land of peace."

Organizers handed out stickers that read, "What have you done today to topple the government?"

Organizers put the number of demonstrators at around 40,000, but journalists and photographers estimated the number at closer to 10,000.

Bearing banners reading, "Return to Rabin's path" and "Save the peace," the crowd responded warmly to the speakers.

A roar of applause rose from the crowd when Sarid said, "Bibi, go home."

"This government is leading

us to war," said Menahem Swerdlin, who was there with his granddaughter. "We have to stop them."

"Ehud Barak is right," said Hugo Chanfan, of Tel Aviv. "We have to be vocal outside this square, on the highways and at intersections."

"Who would have thought four years ago that we would be demonstrating again for peace and fearing the outbreak of another war," said Sarah Cohen, 22.

Meanwhile, yesterday evening in Dehaishe, about 150 Palestinians opposed to the peace accords marched bearing a coffin with a sign "Oslo died." They also burned Israeli and US flags.

EGYPT

Continued from Page 1

Immediately before the secretary of state left for Damascus, a senior administration official said "senior representatives" of Israel and the Palestinian Authority have been invited to Washington for separate bilateral talks.

These sessions will be a prelude to a trilateral American-Israeli-Palestinian session at UN Headquarters in New York to be attended by Albright. Foreign Minister David Levy, and the PA's second-in-command, Mahmoud Abbas.

The official quoted Albright as having informed her Israeli and Palestinian hosts that she does not intend to return to the Middle East "until tough decisions are taken by the [Israeli and Palestinian] leaders." He said Albright "will not come back to tread water."

Albright's conclusion that "a crisis of confidence" exists between Israel and the PA was cited by the official as one of the reasons for her having proposed a "time out" in preparation for the onset of final-status talks between the parties.

During this period, she hopes

that Israel would avoid steps that might create problems for the other side and that the PA would make sure there is no halt in the fight against terrorism and a concurrent halt in its war of words against Israel.

"The US view is that the PA is doing something [about terrorism], but not enough," he went on.

"Some arrests have been made of people we knew should have been arrested. But it is not enough to fight terrorism when it is convenient."

To succeed, the final-status talks must be conducted in an environment that reflects mutual trust, the official went on. But he asked rhetorically: "How do you break out of the current atmosphere of distrust?"

One of Albright's accomplishments during her three-day stay here was to secure Palestinian as well as Israeli consent to advance to final-status talks, rather than go on seeking interim agreements.

"Both sides are prepared to accept this sequence," the official said.

"There must be greater confidence about where the two sides are headed," he added, explaining that this is the reason for the preliminary sessions with the

respective parties before proceeding to the trilateral talks in New York.

"The secretary decided this is a small step," he said, adding that it is a basis for the US to be involved. "We won't walk away."

Asked at a news briefing about the secretary's call for a halt to settlement expansion, the official said her remarks were "about Palestinian perceptions," implying that this may not necessarily be her personal assessment.

"We believe that it is very important that terror not dominate the scene in Israel," Albright said in Egypt. "It is very hard for the people of Israel to negotiate to the presence of bombers."

"And we do believe it is very important for Chairman Arafat to do everything that he can... in order to dismantle the Hamas infrastructure and to work to the best of his efforts to control the terrorist activities."

"We hope very much that there will not be unilateral acts by either side which preempt final-status issues."

She said the environment for peace "is based on fulfilling mutual obligations and responsibilities."

HISTADRUT

Continued from Page 1

The Histadrut is objecting to various elements of government policy, including the proposed 1998 NIS 2.3 billion state budget cut, plans to privatize many government companies and what it sees as ongoing attacks on workers' rights throughout the public sector.

Organization leaders are expected to meet again to discuss spreading the disruptions to other sectors of the economy throughout the week.

Hamas slams Albright

Hamas yesterday rejected comments by US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright that the group was the enemy of Palestinians.

"Albright's statement is rejected and it is condemned as it is a flagrant incitement," Hamas said in a leaflet. "The Palestinian people, which breathes politics with oxygen, is not in need of the lessons or the advice of Albright. They know better who are their enemies."

In remarks broadcast on the Voice of Palestine radio, Albright told Palestinians they had no greater enemy than the two Moslem militant groups that carry out suicide attacks on Israel.

"The average Palestinian has no greater enemy than Hamas and the Islamic Jihad," she said. "That is why fighting terrorism is the responsibility of both the Palestinian Authority and the Palestinian people and that is why all must understand the battle against terrorism is for the interests of the Arabs, the Palestinians and the Israelis." (Reuters)

Leah Rabin: Netanyahu to blame for crisis

Leah Rabin said yesterday, the fourth anniversary of the landmark Israel-PLO peace deal, that Israel was to blame for a breakdown in peacemaking.

"Have we kept our obligations to peace? Indeed, we stopped the peace train long before even the Mahaneh Yehuda attack or [the terror attack at] Aprovo," Rabin told Israel Radio.

"I certainly place the responsibility on the Israeli side, certainly. Because the peace process should have been continued. These painful attacks [should be] taken as part of the process."

"What do we want to have? A war? Will that be better?" Rabin and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat cosigned a symbolic commitment to peace on Thursday in Ramallah.

"It was so sad," she said of the ceremony. "In my worst dreams, I never thought such a day would come, that four years after that bright morning on the White House lawn I would sit here alone beside Arafat and Yitzhak gone ... and Arafat a sad man."

Arafat and former prime minister Yitzhak Rabin sealed the Oslo interim peace deal in the presence of US President Bill Clinton using a handshake on the White House lawn on September 13, 1993.

"Certainly I remember that bright and wonderful day when the winds of hope blew from the White House lawn to the Middle East and throughout the entire world," Rabin said.

Rabin said she believed US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright "shocked" Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu with a call for a freeze on Jewish settlements. Israel rejected the call, Albright said on Friday she would not return to the region until the sides took hard decisions.

(Reuters)

OBITUARIES

Tel Aviv: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
03-639-0393

Jerusalem: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
02-531-5608

After 6 p.m.: 02-531-5613

HEBREW PRESS REVIEW

By ORLY AHARON

The Hebrew media this weekend analyzed the issues concerning Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's visit. Besides extensive commentaries summing up her visit, the press also focused on the threatening prospects of war and the controversy surrounding the Lebanese stalemate.

Ma'ariv's Ben Caspi claims that the "woman of steel is much tougher in Ramallah than she is in Jerusalem," adding that the Americans have adopted the Israeli approach concerning Arafat's fictitious fight against terrorism.

According to **Yediot Aharonot's** Nahum Barnea, Netanyahu dreaded Albright's visit, because he did not want to deal with American pressure to fulfill obligations to the Palestinians.

Albright suspected that Netanyahu is insincere in his declarations of willingness to negotiate with Syria. "Albright suspected that Netanyahu wanted to divert her attention from the Syrian issue," Barnea writes.

Shimon Shifter, also of **Yediot**, asserts that the Americans must now attempt to keep the conflict on a low burner. He addresses the troubling issue raised in American-Israeli talks concerning cooperation between Russia and Iran. "And while Israel is seeking American assistance in such a sensitive matter, it must not forget that it is deepening its dependence on the Americans, who might require Israel to pay back in flexibility with the Palestinians."

Yoel Marcus of **Ha'aretz** asserts that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu won this round. "He has managed to focus the visit on terrorism and Arafat's responsibility for violence." He adds that Albright came to the region with no constructive plan. "It is clear that salvation and solutions will not come from America, but from what Netanyahu is prepared to do. What he will not do is clear and what we are stuck."

Ma'ariv's Yosef Lapid focuses on Albright's speech in the president's residence. The warm tone of the speech, writes Lapid, where Albright noted the exceptional ties between America and Israel, prove once again that "Israel has remained, also, under Netanyahu's government, America's preferred partner in the Middle East."

Winds of War

The IDF is preparing a scenario for low-intensity conflict, namely guerrilla warfare by Palestinian Authority forces, according to **Yediot's** Barnea. Palestinian police and Fatah members will participate in actions against Israelis, he writes, adding this may lead to a comprehensive Middle East conflict. However, Barnea stresses that the most cruel type of war is a "war of acceptance." The decision-makers face the bad news like rabbits in front of car headlights. The rabbit has the power to cope, but no courage to do anything about the situation.

Yediot exposes the prospects of war on the Syrian front in an article by American researcher Harold Howe. He analyzed satellite pictures of a Syrian missile site, which he says show the Syrians

have more missile launchers and Scud-C missiles than estimated in the West.

He concludes that Syria is planning to launch a large number of missiles, especially with chemical or atomic warheads. "This gives the aggressor a psychological advantage and the ability to neutralize the efficiency of an air defense system." The missiles are meant to hit population centers in a surprise attack, he writes.

Ron Ben-Yishai comments on Howe's conclusions, judging that the Syrians' unconventional weaponry and ground-to-ground missiles are being developed as a "deterrence umbrella and a safety net in case Israel directly threatens Damascus or Syria's civilian infrastructure."

Yossi Beilin's movement

Uri Orbach of **Yediot Aharonot** attacks Yossi Beilin's new movement supporting unilateral withdrawal from Lebanon. "Whenever there is an opportunity to consider a withdrawal from Lebanon, you will find Beilin," Orbach writes, "the man who extricates the soldiers from the mud and brings the mud home to the country's citizens."

Shalom Yerushalmi in **Ma'ariv** states that Beilin should not rely on votes from right-wing MKs calling to withdraw from Lebanon, who have recently quieted down. Yerushalmi states that a large majority of the public opposes withdrawal and this is reflected in the media. "Beilin and his supporters know that their success unfortunately depends on future tragedies."

In a poll conducted by **Ma'ariv**, the deaths of the IDF commandos in Lebanon only strengthened public opposition to a one-sided withdrawal without an agreement with Syria or Lebanon. The poll showed that 77% of the public oppose withdrawal, up from 54% a month ago.

The president

President Ezer Weizman's attack on government policy in a discussion with Albright this week provoked rage throughout the political system, including appeals to dismiss him. Shalom Yerushalmi in **Ma'ariv** judged this unlikely, noting that "Weizman enjoys tremendous popularity throughout the nation." Weizman is counting on a long tradition that does not replace a president who submits his candidacy for an additional term of office.

Daylight Saving Time

"When the sun will set in the middle of the day and your world will darken, become gloomy and cold, do not forget the man who brought this upon you - Minister Suissa," writes Meir Shalev in **Yediot Aharonot**.

Shalev protests against the early ending of daylight saving time last night, which is supposed to make it easier for the observant to say their morning prayers and get to work on time. "Dishonoring work and disguising the idler in the guise of a worshiper is just another expression of parasitism that we are all too accustomed to," he writes.



Choice pickers
Visitors (from left) Anthony Goldcrow, Ben Aarons, Mark Sholes, and Jeff Robinson take a break from picking apples last week at Kibbutz Ramat Rahel, where they are participating in a Jewish Agency work-and-study program for American and British students. (Joe Makobon)

'Raise taxes, don't charge for health services'

By JUDY SIEGEL

Medical organization expert Prof. Mordechai Shani says it would be less harmful to the public and the medical system to raise health taxes than to significantly shrink the basket of health services and charge patients extra for doctors' visits and certain treatments. Shani is the director of Sheba Hospital - the country's largest - and was twice director-general of the Health Ministry, and during his second tenure did the groundwork for the National Health Insurance system.

In an interview with **The Jerusalem Post**, Shani said the government's decisions on health produce a great deal of "uncertainty and confusion."

The decisions made last week will force Health Minister Yehoshua Matza to charge regressive "co-payments" on certain health fund services, treatments and medications.

The current health tax, comprising 4.8% of income, means that the better off pay more money than the poor.

Under the proposed changes, the government will charge the rich and the poor the same co-payments.

Shani said it was questionable whether health funds could be forced to provide treatment to

patients who can't afford the co-payments, even though they were paying their 4.8% health taxes.

The ministry, he said, is only belatedly realizing that health fund operations must be better supervised.

This, he said, should have been put into effect a long time ago; also long delayed is the incorporation of public hospitals, 10 turn them into non-profit public corporations.

Shani added that the rising expense of medical care and the aging of the population has created deficits in health systems throughout the world.

It takes great imagination to deal with these monumental problems, but it can be done, he said.

He strongly opposed reverting to the situation before the National Health Insurance Law went into effect in January 1995, noting that that the situation would be even worse than it is today, with the health system's NIS 2 billion deficit.

He urged that the basket of health services to which all residents are entitled not be cut significantly, and that if supplementary health insurance is offered by the health funds, it must be from a completely separate account to reduce the risk of conflict of interest.

shkelon

Leah Rabin Netanyahu to blame for crisis

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Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to an order of the Tel Aviv-Jaffa District Court of September 1, 1997, the undersigned were appointed as administrators of the estate of the late Leonard Lazarus Schach, who died on November 20, 1996 in Tel Aviv, and whose last known address was 18 Netiv Hamazalot Street, Old Jaffa.

In accordance with Section 99 of the Succession Law 1965, we hereby inform creditors of the deceased, if there be any, that they must submit their claims to the undersigned by registered mail within three months of the publication of this notice.

Advocate Abe Goldin
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VISIT US ON

China plans mass privatization, cuts

BEIJING - Delegates to a crucial congress of China's Communist Party rallied yesterday to back their leader's clarion call for revolution in the ailing state economic sector.

Officials opened up selected discussions for the first time to foreign reporters, granting an unprecedented glimpse of the largely ritual way in which delegates express approval for the speech with which general secretary Jiang Zemin opened the 15th party congress on Friday.

In his keynote work report to the five-yearly gathering of the world's largest political party, Jiang vowed to foster new ownership patterns for China's lumbering state enterprises - a coded reference to plans for mass privatization.

China's top general meanwhile gave his formal approval yesterday to Jiang's plan to slash the size of the army, saying the world's largest military needed to be smaller but stronger.

Liu Huaqing, senior vice-chairman of the party's Central Military Commission and one of seven members of the all-powerful Politburo standing committee, voiced his support at a panel meeting of delegates to the congress.

"We should take the chance to readjust... the army and make it smaller in size but more capable in strength," Liu said.

Jiang opened the five-yearly congress on Friday with an announcement that China would pare its 3.1 million strong People's Liberation Army (PLA)

by 500,000 in three years.

Liu described the cut "as a major measure to strengthen the quality of the People's Liberation Army" and said the army needed fewer but better soldiers, the Xinhua news agency said.

Chinese party sources say Liu has long been fiercely opposed to such huge cuts, coming so soon after late paramount leader Deng Xiaoping cut the military by nearly 25 percent to 3.1 million soldiers in the 1980s.

Liu, locked for months in a tussle with Jiang to retain his Politburo position, has apparently lost that struggle as well as a battle to win appointments at the top of the party for his own men, the sources said.

However, the 81-year-old general toed the party line yesterday, pledging the army's allegiance to the leadership of the Communist Party and to Jiang.

Jiang, who is chairman of the powerful Central Military Commission, is determined to remove Liu from the Politburo at this week's congress, replacing him with one of his own protégés, sources said.

Jiang's favored candidate to replace Liu on the standing committee, if a seat is left open for the military, would be Zhang Wannian, also a vice-chairman of the military commission.

Liu told other military delegates to the congress yesterday that China would strive to improve scientific research in defense, Xinhua said.

Jiang said his aim with the huge army cuts was to forge a

leaner and meaner fighting machine.

Diplomats said Jiang's promise was in line with expectations that Beijing would further whittle down the PLA after it abandoned Mao Zedong's tactic of "people's war" - overwhelming the enemy with a human wave.

Diplomats said the cuts were not unexpected but voiced surprise at the speed with which they would be implemented, saying reducing the ranks of the army could prove a headache to Beijing by swelling the rising ranks of the unemployed.

Jiang's pledge yesterday to allow a revolutionary shift in ownership of state firms, many of which are mired in inefficiency and burdened by bad debt, would make mergers easier and could propel higher companies into the world market, said Zhang Ruimin, chairman of home-appliance giant Haier Group Co.

"We are eager to make our products into a world-famous brand and we are confident that we can attain these goals under the proposals made here at the 15th congress," Zhang said.

Approval was the main to-do among members meeting in the cavernous carpeted rooms of Beijing's Great Hall of the People, a Stalinist monument to the communism of an earlier age.

Security around the building was tight, with guards outside dragging away at least two men who tried to hand petitions to some of the more than 2,000 party delegates at the week-long congress.



British shoppers rush to buy Elton John's 'Candle in the Wind' CD single tribute to the late Princess Diana. Hundreds of fans gathered outside the store before it opened.

Britons flock to buy tribute song to Diana

LONDON - Shops in Britain sold out of Elton John's tribute song for Princess Diana, "Candle in the Wind," yesterday just hours after it went on sale.

Music industry sources expect the singer's reworked version of his 1970s tribute to Marilyn Monroe, which he sang at the Princess of Wales' funeral in London last Saturday, to raise 10 million pounds (NIS 55m.) for

her memorial fund.

A government committee is studying ideas for a permanent tribute to Diana, who died in a high-speed car crash in Paris two weeks ago.

British record store managers said the record is the fastest-selling they can remember and expect it to hit the top of the charts and stay there possibly until Christmas.

Some 250,000 copies had been produced for yesterday's launch, but a million more are being rushed for sale next week.

A spokeswoman for the Virgin Megastore in London said all the 1,680 copies that it had received had gone within hours.

A spokesman for the HMV store in Manchester, northern England, said everything had gone. "It was really busy, very big queues," he said.

Some stores tried to limit customers to just a few copies each, but others imposed no limits and some customers left stores with scores of the single.

Britain's Labor government has promised to forego tax on sales of

the song so that all the proceeds will go to the fund.

It is tipped to surpass the 1980s hit "Do They Know It's Christmas?" made to raise money for Ethiopian famine relief, which sold 3.6 million copies.

Elton John's playing of the song at Diana's funeral a week ago brought her sons, Princes William and Harry, and millions more watching on television to tears.

Diana's ex-husband, heir to the throne Prince Charles, and the prince on Friday thanked the hundreds of thousands of people who had written to them and promised to reply to everyone.

Around 300,000 letters have arrived at St James's Palace, where Diana's body lay before her funeral and where Prince Charles has his London office.

Staff are sorting through the messages - which include poems, pictures and gifts of favourite teddy bears and other soft toys - as well as another 7,000 which have arrived by fax, telegram or over the Internet.

A spokeswoman for the prince said: "It will take months, but we

will reply to everyone."

Volunteers are working to remove flowers carpeting the ground outside royal palaces and Diana's family home in central England, where she is buried, and organizers estimate the work may take six weeks.

Bouquets are still being placed outside the palaces and at Althorp, the ancestral home of the Spencers, Diana's family.

Fresh flowers are being sent to hospitals, and other tributes such as messages and toys are being sorted by hand. Old flowers will be composted. Girl guides and scouts yesterday joined other volunteers clearing the huge piles of flowers left outside Buckingham, Kensington and St James's palaces in London.

Outside Althorp, Diana's brother Earl Spencer - whose funeral tribute to his sister brought waves of spontaneous applause - briefly watched the work.

Earl Spencer appeared at the gates of Althorp to watch staff collecting the flowers, but walked back inside without speaking to journalists or visitors.

Australians to hold convention on whether to become republic

SYDNEY (AP) - Australians will hold a constitutional convention in February to decide whether the nation should become a republic and dump the British monarch as head of state, the government said Friday.

Although Australia has been an independent nation since 1901, it still recognizes Britain's Queen Elizabeth II as its head of state, as do many other Commonwealth nations.

The British monarch's powers as head of state are largely symbolic. Her representative, the governor-general, signs parliamentary bills in her name, attends ceremonies, and acts as spokesman for the nation to express condolences after disasters.

But the governor-general has the power to dismiss the government if it is corrupt, dictatorial or unworkable.

In 1975, the queen's representative dismissed the elected Labor government of Prime Minister Gough Whitlam and installed the Conservatives in power after Conservatives in the Senate refused to allow

the passage of a budget bill. This political crisis, renowned as "The Dismissal," shocked many Australians and still underlies some of the pro-republic sentiment.

Polls show a slight majority of Australians believe the nation should become a republic with an Australian head of state, a margin that has grown for about five years, when the debate became more active and about a third favored the republic.

But republicans are divided over how a president should be chosen, and how much power the head of state should have.

Prime Minister John Howard announced Friday the constitutional convention will be held at Old Parliament House in Canberra from February 2-6 and February 9-13.

Half of the convention's 152 delegates will be publicly elected by a national postal ballot, half appointed by the Conservative government. Nominations for elected delegates close October 8.

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Bosnians go to polls for 1st time after war

SARAJEVO (Reuters) — Bosnians went to the polls yesterday to choose municipal governments for the first time since the end of a bloody three-and-a-half year war.

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) spent at least \$50 million organizing the election and supervising an elaborate voter registration procedure over the past several months.

Voters will elect local authorities in 136 municipalities in the country's two autonomous territories, the Muslim-Croat federation and the Serb republic.

Some 2,500 international monitors are observing voting at 2,253 polling stations in Bosnia, 64 stations in neighboring Croatia and 79 in neighboring Yugoslavia.

The OSCE says about 2.5 million people are registered to vote.

The municipal vote was originally scheduled to coincide with last year's general elections, but the discovery of widespread abuses in the voter registration process led the OSCE to call for a postponement.

The last local elections were held in 1990 when Bosnia-Herzegovina was part of the former Yugoslav federation.

That vote was held at the same time as general elections, which marked the first multi-party polls in Yugoslavia. Nationalist parties prevailed.

Although a total of 91 political parties are registered, three nationalist parties representing the country's Muslim, Croat and Serb communities are expected to dominate — a coalition led by the Muslim Party of Democratic Action (SDA), the Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ) and the Serb Democratic Party (SDS).

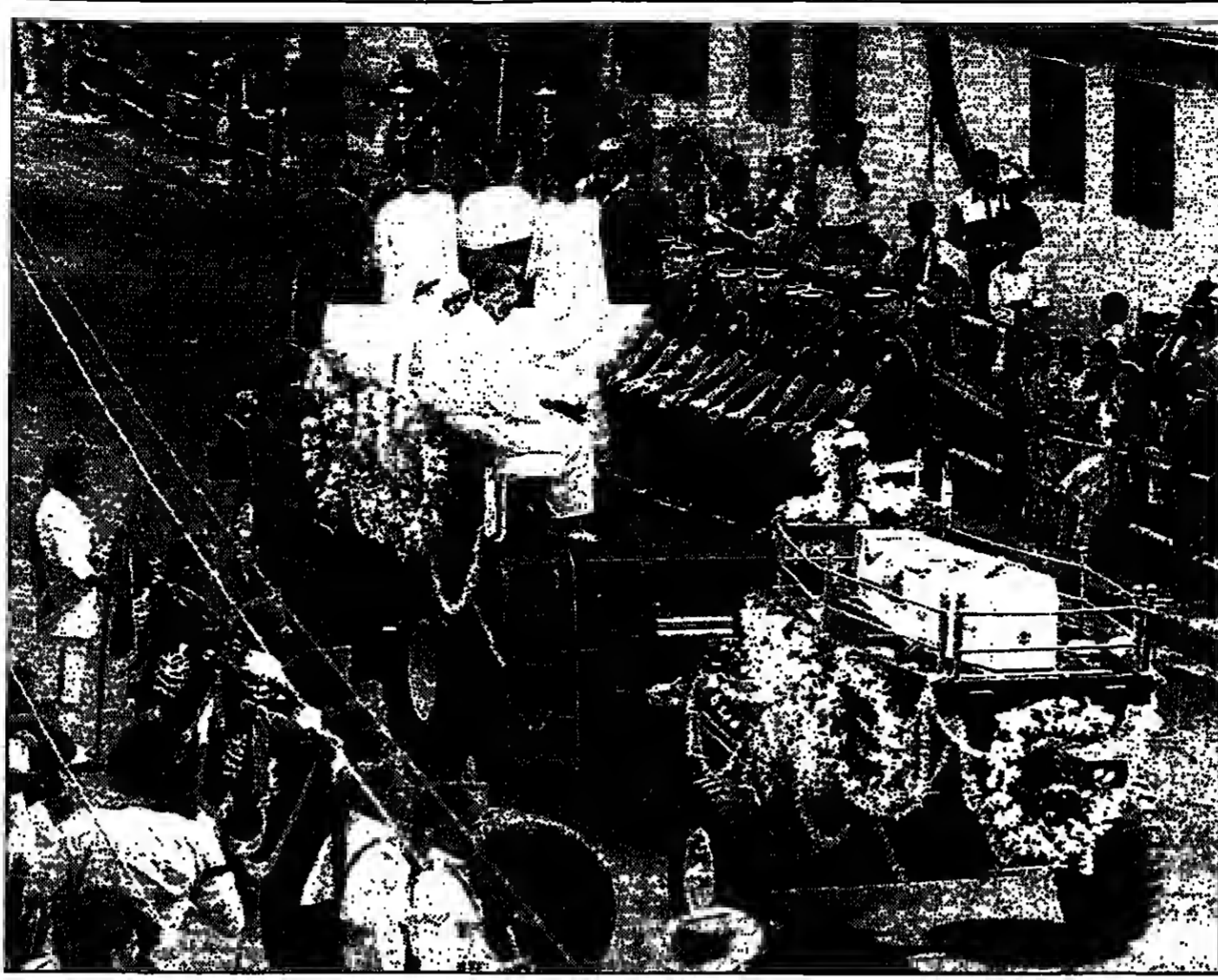
Bosnians were given the chance to register to vote in their pre-war municipalities or in their current residence.

But the OSCE drew up rules to try to prevent authorities from moving refugees into key towns to try to stack the vote in their favor.

Organizers of the vote say the elections may overturn the strict ethnic division of the country and allow some refugees to return home.

The OSCE mission will also ensure the election results are carried out, something which may prove much more difficult than organizing the vote.

Diplomats say the election may produce "governments-in-exile" if nationalist authorities refuse to relinquish authority to towns seized by their armies during the 1992-95 conflict.



The cortege of Mother Teresa leaves St. Thomas's Church at the start of the funeral procession yesterday. (Reuters)

Mother Teresa laid to rest

CALCUTTA (Reuters) — Mother Teresa was laid to rest yesterday at the end of a week of mass mourning that drew the powerful and poor together in homage to a tiny saint.

Her simple white casket was lowered into the ground inside the spartan building housing her missionary's headquarters at 3:58 p.m. (1028 GMT) yesterday, witnesses said.

Thousands of faithful stood outside on a Calcutta street under gray skies for a last glimpse of the Roman Catholic nun born in the Balkans but who made India her home.

After a week of lying in state before queens and lepers, presidents and the poor, Mother Teresa's body returned to her family of nuns who stood near her casket entered the grave in what had been the order's cafeteria.

Gurkha soldiers fired three volleys and four buglers sounded the Last Post to end the state honor for the "Saint of the Gutters" who died of a heart attack on September 5 at the age of 87.

The day-long funeral began

with a solemn funeral procession.

An estimated 100,000 people lined the route of the cortege that took Mother Teresa's open casket across the city and adopted.

Pope John Paul's emissary led mass at an indoor stadium where a host of world dignitaries and ordinary people paid homage.

Queens, presidents and prime ministers were among 400 foreign dignitaries who came to pay final tribute to a woman who had become an icon in her lifetime and was considered a living saint.

Mother Teresa lived like a pauper and died like a queen.

"She would have felt uncomfortable," said Father Bill Perie of the Damien Institute. "But she would do anything for the poor."

Her admirers said her work in the orphanages and the homes for the destitute would live on.

"From the cold bier the unforgettable, dear Mother continues to speak to us," the Vatican's emissary, Cardinal Angelo

Sodano, said at the funeral.

It was the world's second mass funeral in a week. Mother Teresa died six days after Britain's Princess Diana was killed in a car accident in Paris.

The women were far apart in age and style but shared a concern for the dispossessed.

Diana's sudden death at a young age left the world in shock.

Mother Teresa's passing had been foreseen for quite some time — she was taken to hospital three times last year — but still left a void.

Hours after Mother Teresa was buried, US First Lady Hillary Clinton visited one of her orphanages to pay homage to the nun and comfort her mourning followers.

"We wanted to come to Calcutta to express our deep sadness at the passing of Mother Teresa but also to celebrate her mission, her faith and her life, and to make clear that the work she started and gave her life to will continue," she said.

Millions of television viewers around the world watched live coverage. Spain's Queen Sofia, Italy's President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro, Jordan's Queen Noor and India's President K.R. Narayanan and Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral sat among the mourners.

At the end of the funeral, dozens of dignitaries in black strode solemnly, one by one, to the casket, draped with the Indian flag, to lay wreaths of white flowers.

They included the duchess of Kent and former Philippine president Corason Aquino.

But in keeping with Mother Teresa's life, sacred offerings were also made by an orphan, a reformed woman criminal, a leper and a crippled boy.

Mother Teresa's successor at the head of the Missionaries of Charity order, Sister Nirmala, recalled in a speech her mentor's unbroken commitment to the destitute.

"The hungry, the thirsty, the sick and the dying, the orphans, the leprosy sufferers, those of broken bodies and broken minds and broken hearts — these were the special objects of Mother's love."

Scotland votes for own parliament

EDINBURGH — Delivering a resounding vote to have their own parliament for the first time in 290 years, Scots on Friday embarked on a path of home rule, shaking ties with England.

Scotland's nearly 4 million voters — just under 10 percent of the British electorate — will take control of most domestic affairs, marking the most significant change in the United Kingdom since Irish independence in 1922.

With results counted in all 32 districts from Thursday's referendum, the vote for the parliament was 74.2 percent in favor, and 63.4 percent supporting giving the Edinburgh body's tax-raising powers. Voter turnout was 60.1 percent.

"I am absolutely delighted that the Scottish people have backed our plans," Prime Minister Tony Blair declared early Friday.

Two districts, the Orkney Islands in the north and Dumfries and Galloway on the southern border with England, voted against tax-raising powers.

Britain's battered Conservative Party, virtually the sole opponents of the Labor Party government's plan, conceded defeat. The Tories vowed to battle on to avert what it said were plans by Scottish nationalists to use the parliament to precipitate independence.

"It's been a decisive result. As a party we accept that," Jackson Carlaw, deputy chairman of the Conservative Party in Scotland, acknowledged in the early hours Friday. "We don't want to see this parliament hijacked by anybody who favors independence."

The Scottish and Welsh assemblies were a key pledge of Blair's winning platform in May 1 national elections. However, Blair regards the Scottish Parliament as a way of keeping Scotland in the United Kingdom, and the nationalists do not.

"We have embarked on a journey and the end of this journey will be independence," declared Alex Salmond, whose Scottish National Party gets about one-fourth of the Scots' vote in national elections.

In 1979, the Scots and Welsh rejected separate assemblies. But sentiment has changed, partly because of 18 years of Tory rule until May which was delivered on English votes.

Elections for the 129-member parliament, to open in 2000, take place in 1999.

It will keep Scotland within the country and subject to Queen

Elizabeth II, while controlling responsibility for a raft of domestic affairs, including health, education, the law, police, sport and the arts.

The referendum took place on the 700th anniversary of the defeat of the English army at Stirling Bridge by William Wallace, depicted in the epic movie *Braveheart*. The Scottish vote was expected to encourage Wales to vote in favor of a less powerful separate assembly in Cardiff in a referendum on Thursday.

Wales is more closely integrated with England and polls show many of its two million voters wary of change.

Campaigners led by Welsh Secretary Ron Davies yesterday stepped up their efforts for a "yes" vote in Thursday's referendum, hoping for a knock-on effect from the strong backing for devolution in Scotland.

Davies said in a BBC radio debate yesterday that failure to back an assembly would be the "biggest own goal in Welsh history" and would damage the status of Wales.

"It is now being suggested by the No campaign in Wales that when we have this development of regional government across Britain, then somehow Wales, and Wales alone, should continue to be governed by this arm's length, patronizing relationship from London.

"I find that a dreadful prospect," Davies said.

But campaigners against the Welsh assembly were also out in force at the weekend trying to stem the tide.

Jonathan Evans, the spokesman in Wales for the Conservatives — soundly beaten in the May 1 national election by Labor — said Wales was being offered a worthless, yet expensive, talking shop of "hot air."

And Roger Williams of the Just Say No campaign said he was optimistic.

"We are being well received wherever we go on the streets, and that is where it matters. We remain very confident of victory."

Labor is pushing the devolution campaign to address what it said was the centralizing tendency of the Conservatives during their 18-year-long stranglehold on power and to broaden democracy.

Some observers predicted constitutional instability ahead, with English voters becoming resentful of Scottish lawmakers who remain in the House of Commons in London voting on English domestic issues. (News agencies)

Hearings on fund-raising scandal hurt Gore

WASHINGTON — Vice President Al Gore is rapidly emerging as the principal victim of the Senate hearings on campaign fund-raising abuses.

The hearings, by the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, were designed to examine the mad scramble for campaign dollars surrounding the 1996 election.

For the first month few Americans paid close attention as senators investigated illegal foreign donations to the Democratic Party and the possibility that China tried to influence the election.

Suddenly, two weeks ago, the committee hit pay dirt when it bored in on Gore's fund-raising role.

"The problem is that the whole fund-raising scandal has now been personalized on Gore and that can be terribly damaging," said Allan Lichtman, a history professor at the American University.

"These allegations tend to stick, like flies to flypaper.

Once people think you have done something unethical, they are slow to change their minds," Lichtman said.

A *Los Angeles Times* poll on Friday suggested Gore was already seriously tarnished. Fifty-nine percent of respondents believed Gore had behaved improperly and the vice president's favorability rating was down to 34 percent, against only 33 percent who viewed him favorably.

By contrast, Clinton enjoyed 59 percent favorability. Of course, Clinton is an example of a

man who managed to transcend ethical doubts and be elected president twice.

But Gore's previously clean moral record was one of his chief assets, unlike Clinton who has tended to rely on his personal charm and inspired political instincts.

By issuing subpoenas for tens of thousands of internal White House and Democratic Party documents, the committee was able to unearth records that cast a legal shadow over Gore's fund-raising role and put his credibility in doubt.

He had to change his story about his role in an apparently illegal fund-raising event in a Buddhist Temple, at which money was raised and laundered.

He also gave a stammering explanation

of 86 fund-raising calls he made from his residence which may have violated federal law.

Now, chances are growing that Attorney General Janet Reno will be forced to appoint a special investigator to examine all of this, which will keep the whole issue on the front burner all the way through 2000, when Gore will be running for president.

Republicans on the committee are openly accusing Gore of "twisting the facts" or engaging in a "cover-up."

The more this goes on, the greater the chances of other Democrats with presidential ambitions being drawn into a challenge to Gore.

The committee has won new credibility for its investigation from a public that was initially skeptical. (Reuters)

ANALYSIS

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Bob Dylan: Traditional music... is the only true, valid death you can feel today off a record player.

BOOK REVIEW

Beyond the boundaries

By RAFAEL ALVAREZ

INVISIBLE REPUBLIC: Bob Dylan's Basement Tapes by Greil Marcus. New York, Henry Holt. 286 pp. \$22.50.

When John Lennon attempted to hide a culture that had defied him by saying the Beatles had become bigger than Jesus, he was vilified as a blasphemer and bonfires consumed piles of good records. One year earlier, in 1965, Bob Dylan had deliberately flouted the sensibilities of so-called folk purists by opening fire at the Newport Folk Festival with an electric guitar and a rock band. "Blasphemer" was the mildest appellation appended to him by an orthodoxy so anxious to crucify him that they didn't have the courtesy to listen first and boo later. This amazing book by Greil Marcus, chronicler of America's secret histories, reveals the folk music of the US as more elemental and hard to pin down than anyone would suspect. Hence the "invisible republic" referred to in the title. The book attempts to show how Bob Dylan's pioneering performances at Newport, for which he felt obliged to tone down the acoustics in deference to the puritans, were actually noisy maps to

uncharted regions of the invisible republic of the folk-music world. Beyond that, says Marcus, the 1967 recordings Dylan made in a Woodstock basement with the Band - some of which were released as *The Basement Tapes* in 1975 - endure as a booze-and-death-drenched symbol of what this world was all about. And then we get to read about Bob the Clairvoyant Cartographer, surveying an America passed down to him by dead banjo players and blind preachers, setting down the boundaries with voice and guitar. "There's nobody that's going to kill traditional music," says Dylan. "All those songs about roses growing out of people's brains and lovers who are really geese and swans that turn into angels - they're not going to die.... Traditional music is too unreal to die.... Nobody's going to hurt it. In that music is the only true, valid death you can feel today off a record player." For a book that deals with highly subjective issues and touches on raw emotion, it is written in a surprisingly academic style. I often had to remind myself that for all the (albeit well-researched) scholarly hogwash, it is basically only entertainment that is being discussed. (The Baltimore Sun)

Recapturing a lost language

Somewhere in the converted barn that is Scotland's only Gaelic college, a student struggling to coax music from the bagpipes creates a mournful melody for a rainy afternoon. In another corner, Robert Kerr, 38, descended from generations of Gaelic-speaking shepherds and crofters, is interviewing to enroll for a year's full-time course. He is hoping to recapture the lost language of his parents. Nearby, Andrew Gossen, 26, a Harvard postgraduate anthropology student, is back for a second visit to bone up on Scottish Gaelic, one of the world's most precarious languages. Sitting on the southern tip of the beautiful Hebridean island of Ostaig, Isle of Skye, is Sabhal Mor Ostaig, Gaelic for "the big barn." The college is part of a costly effort to save a dying language. There are Scottish Gaelic toddler play groups, cultural centers, an Internet site, and government-funded Gaelic-language TV and radio programs. The college promotes all things Scots and Gaelic. Courses on playing the Scottish fiddle or whistles, Highland culture and history, as well as Scottish Gaelic language courses attract several hundred students in the summer. And a record 70 full-time students enrolled for the fall term. "I don't think we should be pessimistic," says Norman

Scottish Gaelic is one of the world's most precarious languages. A new college in Scotland hopes to change that. Maureen Johnson reports.

Gillies, director of the college. "But it is going to take 20 years to say, 'Yes, we've turned the corner; this language is going to survive.'" Signs in Gaelic and English dotting the Scottish Highlands suggest that people on this misty Celtic fringe of Europe still speak the language brought by settlers from Ireland in the third century. But according to the 1991 census, Gaelic is spoken regularly by only 67,000 people - less than 2 percent of Scotland's population of 5.1 million. Irish is the first language of a similarly small portion of the Republic of Ireland's 3.5 million people. But it's a required course in primary and secondary schools. About a third of Ireland's people can speak it. Welsh, a related Celtic language, is spoken by about one-fifth of the 2.9 million people in Wales. Scottish Gaelic, which emerged as a distinct language in

the 15th century, was suppressed after Bonnie Prince Charlie's defeat by the English army at Culloden in 1746. Mass emigration to North America and Australia, spurred partly by 19th-century clearances of Highland communities to make way for sheep, reduced the pool of Gaelic speakers. Gaelic also came under pressure from English schools, the migration to cities, and a sense that speaking the language was unfashionable and economically futile. Allan Campbell, 49, who heads Comunn na Gaidhlig, the Gaelic Society, recalls schooling common to all Gaelic speakers until recently: the children and teacher spoke Gaelic on the way to school, then switched to English in the classroom. Kerr, a native Highlander, says his parents spoke only English, even to his Gaelic-speaking grandparents. No one seemed concerned. Government-sponsored revival

programs date back to the mid-1970s. Now the challenge is to gain the attention of a generation raised in a world of satellite TV, American movies, computer games, and pop culture - a time when English has never been more powerful around the world. "We have made remarkable progress in terms of infrastructure and initiatives in the last 15 years," says Campbell. "But we have not won the battle of selling back to our own people the language that belongs to them. While there's a sense of identity and a spiritual willingness toward the language, the task of learning it is so daunting that most people put it off. It's a hit like dieting or stopping smoking." The interest in Gaelic isn't confined to Scotland. Of the 25,000 committed Gaelic learners, half are in the United States, mainly Scots-descended Americans practicing sounds they'll be able to share with almost no one. "It does seem a weird thing to do," says Stevan Jackson, director of Appalachian, Scots and Irish studies at East Tennessee State University, who began learning Gaelic four years ago. "I don't think anyone has the illusion they they will learn to speak it fluently," says Jackson. But it gives us a better appreciation of the culture." (AP)

EARTHLY CONCERNS



At least 90 percent of the sun's rays are trapped by a new photovoltaic system, making it more efficient and cost effective than others. (Brian Heidler)

'Energy roll' produces cheap solar power

By D'VORA BEN SHAUL

A solar energy collector in the form of a plastic roll has just come on the market in the US. About the size of a roll of wallpaper and weighing less than two kilograms, the "energy roll" is designed to serve as a portable power source. The sheets are made of a polymer, which is then impregnated with specially developed molecules that mimic photosynthesis, the method plants use to harvest solar energy. The "energy roll" converts the sun's rays directly into electricity. It can be used to heat water for a shower while camping, recharge batteries, or power a computer, fax machine, heater, fan or light bulbs in tents or small cabins. The inventors at the Advanced Research Development Institute

in Massachusetts have not targeted this product to the civilian luxury vacation market alone. They envision the "energy roll" as standard equipment in every soldier's survival kit, and as part of the gear packed by campers and hikers from the Alps to the Sahara. It could also be used on airplane emergency kits, since it can power a radio transmitter when batteries fail. But the most attractive feature of all is that the "energy roll" is made of materials so cheap that the electricity produced by this photovoltaic system is expected to cost about one US cent per watt. (The cheapest solar energy now available costs about \$1.50 per watt.) The device traps at least 90 percent of the sun's rays, making it more efficient and cost effective than other photovoltaic systems, such as those used to light the

soldiers' hitchhiking stations here. The materials in these silicon-based semiconductor systems are expensive and account for the high cost of electricity produced by photovoltaic action. Despite its light weight and filminess, the material in the "energy roll" is said to be sturdy and resistant to tears or punctures, even when laid out on the ground. The inventors say it should last several years, even if given only casually careful treatment. The "energy roll" is now being sold in a few selected camping stores and other outlets in the US for about \$90. Within a year, as production increases, the price is expected to drop to around \$60. Then it will be widely available throughout the US and exported to other countries as well.

RABIN

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Photographs and commentary by Neil Folberg

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**DRIVE CAREFULLY!
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Private hospital for public health

By JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

If we have learned anything since the national health insurance system was launched nearly three years ago, it is that medicine is a business - whether provided by a public health fund or a private hospital. But myths still take a long time to fade.

A well-run public hospital can be concerned with the welfare of patients, even if it is forced to cover costs with income; a private hospital whose investors vigilantly watch the balance sheet can offer some treatments at a lower price than public institutions due to staff incentives and boosted efficiency.

Now celebrating the 15th anniversary of their first hospital, in Herzliya Pituah, the Herzliya Medical Centers have found their niche in Israel's inscrutable health system.

Despite much initial opposition from various health ministers and public hospitals, HMC-Herzliya and the six-year-old HMC-Haifa (built with funds from South African investors) are fully licensed by the Health Ministry and enjoy international recognition. They have intensive-care units, like any general hospital, and perform almost every procedure except heart and liver transplants and brain surgery. They are also the only medical organization outside the US to be accredited as hospital providers by Empire Blue Cross-Blue Shield, the major American health insurer.

"In 1983, we asked a prominent cardiac surgeon from a public hospital to perform open-heart surgery on two children," recalls HMC chairman Dr. Aubrey Joffe. "We had permission to do such procedures. But we soon got a call from the health minister, who demanded to know what we were doing. We received a special license for open-heart surgery, even though it was not required. We had to fight for everything. Now we are even recognized as a teaching hospital, as we have a joint program with Bar-Ilan University for the training of in-vitro fertilization specialists. We have in-house surgeons and anes-



A private hospital whose investors vigilantly watch the balance sheet can offer some treatments at a lower price than public institutions due to staff incentives and boosted efficiency.

esthesiologists, in addition to high-level outside practitioners who regularly perform operations here.

HMC is associated with more than 700 of the country's leading physicians in all fields of medicine, who have consulting rooms at HMC.

Joffe's son Peter is managing director of the 100-bed Herzliya hospital, and his son Dan is managing director of the 80-bed Haifa (Horev Center) branch. Joffe notes that all outside doctors must receive written permission to work at HMC. They may do so, however, only on their own time.

The four public health funds have been reluctant to refer mem-

bers to private hospitals for treatment, even though the prices for some procedures are less expensive. "Only a third of our income comes from the health funds; the rest is from private patients. Thus five years ago, we decided to diversify and invest effort on overseas patients," Joffe explains. "We didn't want to be dependent on the unstable health scene here, which is highly politicized."

Joffe and other senior staffers have made numerous trips in the last seven years to the former Soviet Union, where the two HMC hospitals are very well known. HMC has entered into a joint venture with the leading Russian oil company Lukoil, for the design,

construction, equipping and operation of a modern cardiology hospital in Kazan (in the Republic of Tatarstan). HMC has also been hired as consultants for the construction of a 400-bed hospital in Nizhny Novgorod, Siberia, and as advisers to several companies and organizations in Moscow involved in new medical facilities.

Major projects in Romania, Morocco and neighboring countries are consulting with HMC on hospital and clinic design and management, as well as on the supply of mobile medical units for military and civilian use. What's more, HMC has been consulted by Jordanians on the building of a private hospital for patients from the Gulf states.

Martina Linkova, who studied medicine in Vladivostok and immigrated here seven years ago, is international medical services coordinator at HMC. With her keen understanding of medical needs in the CIS and her fluency in Russian, she and her three assistants deal with patients, most of them non-Jewish, who fly to Israel to undergo medical treatment at HMC. "Even in antisemitic societies Jewish doctors get a lot of respect," notes Joffe. "We don't have an office or active marketing there, but we get a lot of patients - a few hundred a month - by word of mouth."

Surprisingly, many of these foreign patients are not wealthy. "Only a minority pay their own bills," Linkova explains. "Many people are funded by their employers or institutions because they really want good medical treatment, which is not available in their country." One recent patient, who underwent a bone-marrow transplant in Herzliya, was an accountant in the bureau of standards in Belarus. Joffe says, giving just one example.

Many of the foreign patients arrive with severe complications due to medical neglect. Most of the CIS patients seek treatment for infertility, optical disorders, tumors, and conditions which require surgery.

Although patients in other Eastern European countries generally go to Austria or Germany for treatment

because they are closer, Israel's 10 to 15 direct flights per week from the CIS have been a boon to HMC. "Because of our Russian-speaking personnel," says Linkova, "they feel much more at home here."

The virtual freeze in diplomatic relations with the Arab countries since the new government took office has put a general damper on medical ties. There is still some interest in Israeli medical institutions, Joffe continues, "but now they prefer to deal with private organizations like us rather than with the Health Ministry."

Diplomatic problems have not affected Turkey, where HMC personnel are warmly welcomed. "We are consultants to a Moslem group in Ankara regarding fertility treatments."

MedEvac International, an emergency air ambulance evacuation service based at HMC, is used mostly by tourists and expatriates facing a medical emergency in the Middle East, Eastern Europe, Africa, and the CIS.

Another HMC subsidiary that has had international and domestic impact is American Medical Laboratories (AML). Working out of 250 square meters of the Herzliya complex, it has brought state-of-the-art "American-style" clinical lab services to Israel. "We are the country's largest private lab," says operations manager David Shafir.

Using a network of couriers, the lab collects samples from any location in Israel. (It performs tests for veterinarians and scientific researchers as well.)

Major international pharmaceutical companies, which demand accuracy in testing their medications, trust AML with clinical trial testing.

Nearly every square centimeter of the lab is filled with computerized touch-screen devices that test hundreds of medical variables from test tubes. Many include robot arms and cartridges equipped with the necessary reagents.

Among its facilities, HMC offers an advanced cytogenetic lab, an ophthalmic laser unit, the largest and only private IVF lab in Israel, a comatose-patient unit, and the first private CT scan.



Hospital staff take time out to make this abused youngster feel he matters. (Nisim Shorer)

New medical kit helps identify child abuse

By JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

Better late than never. After four years of on-again, off-again work and over a decade after such material became standard in hospitals abroad, a kit to help health staffers identify abused children has been distributed in Hebrew.

The kit, the joint work of the Health Ministry, Kupat Holim Clalit and JDC-Israel, includes a 67-page softcover book in Hebrew, an American film dubbed into Hebrew, slides and transparencies.

Although only 50 copies of the book - one for each hospital - have been printed for lack of funds, the ministry says it intends to put all the written material and photographs on an Internet site and add more material suitable to primary physicians and nurses in community health-fund clinics.

A steering committee for the three bodies, which spent \$60,000 on researching and preparing the material, will follow up implementation of the program.

Dr. Yitzhak Bertovich, director of the ministry's medical division, says that eventually, similar kits will be produced to identify signs of violence against women, elderly and helpless people. Cooperation on such a project among three separate institutions - the ministry, the health fund and the Joint - is as unusual as it is welcome, he adds.

Every hospital now has a special team to deal with children at risk; its members, in turn, regularly brief other staffers, especially those working in emergency rooms, urging them to keep on the lookout for signs of abuse.

The project took a considerable amount of time, says Ilana Ben-Shahar, the ministry's chief social worker, because it had to integrate relevant material collected from various institutions and documents in Israel and abroad.

There are 48 bibliographical sources in Hebrew and English. These are given at the end of the book, which is called *Hit'alelut Bivveladim* (Child Abuse: Identification, Diagnosis and Principles of Action in Hospitals).

A helpful feature is the telephone numbers of social workers and various public organizations that deal with child abuse.

THE NUMBER of reported child-abuse cases increases every year. Ben-Shahar says she thinks this is not due to a significantly higher incidence of abuse, but because of increasing awareness of the problem and willingness to deal with it.

Experts estimate that 1% of all Israeli children suffer abuse - physical, emotional or sexual.

A total of 21,000 abuse cases were reported to the social welfare system and 2,500 to 3,000 cases of sexual abuse were reported to the police in 1994. It is believed that for every reported case, three to 10 cases go unreported.

According to the booklet, abuse is underreported because of the young age of many of the victims, the fact that the victims are dependent on their parents, difficulties in diagnosis, lack of diagnostic tools and inadequate coordination of data.

Since many abused children reach emergency rooms, the appearance of the kit fills an urgent need.

Statistics from the US, which are believed to be relevant here,

show that 70% of all child-abuse cases involve emotional abuse and neglect, 25% sexual abuse, and the rest beatings, burns and other types of physical abuse. The parent or guardian is the abuser in 95% of the cases, with a babysitter responsible for 4% and the rest other people with access to the child.

In three to five out of 100 cases, the child dies as a result of the abuse.

The risk of abuse is greater when the child was born with a disability or disease requiring frequent hospitalizations, or if it was premature and spent much time in the hospital after delivery.

Ben-Shahar suggests that stress or the lack of time for emotional bonding with the child may be part of the explanation. When a couple become parents at a very young age - under 18 - the danger of abuse is also higher, as is when parents are drug addicts, mentally disabled, alcoholics or mentally ill.

Ben-Shahar notes optimistically that if the abuser is sent for treatment - mostly talk therapy with a psychologist or other professional - the family can be rehabilitated in eight to nine out of 10 cases. In 2 to 3 percent of the cases, the abuser can't be cured and the child has to be removed from the home.

FOR SEVERAL years there has been a law requiring anyone who suspects a case of child abuse to report it to the authorities (the police or a social worker) if the suspicion is "reasonable."

Although everyone is obligated to do this, a professional - such as a doctor, nurse, teacher, social worker, psychologist, criminologist or other paramedical worker - can get a six-month prison sentence if he fails to report his or her suspicions.

Ben-Shahar concedes that no one has been prosecuted on such a charge, but the law does have some value in stressing the importance of reporting suspicions.

An impressive flow chart in the book tells medical staffers exactly what stages they must go through when a child is believed to have been abused, from time of admission to emergency room, until the case is thoroughly investigated.

The most difficult sections of the book to read are those that graphically describe bodily and emotional symptoms that hint at physical, sexual or mental abuse or neglect.

It's difficult to imagine a parent plunging a child's backside into hot water with such care that injuries can't be detected when the child is fully clothed.

Doctors are told how the skin looks if cigarettes have been put out on a child's body, and how a bone can develop a symmetrical break when a parent has grabbed an arm with both hands and twisted it.

There is the widely seen "shaken baby syndrome" as well as the rarer "deprivational dwarfism" (extreme retardation of growth and intellect due to starvation and lack of stimulation) and Munchausen syndrome by proxy (in which the mentally unbalanced parent invents an illness so the child has to undergo unnecessary tests and even be hospitalized).

One can only hope that the abuse will drop once medical workers identify the victims and the authorities rehabilitate the perpetrators.

Rx FOR READERS

All steamed up about water

By POST HEALTH REPORTER

My wife and I boil our drinking water before refrigerating it during the summer. Are we losing the natural minerals in the water by doing this? S.H., Upper Nazareth.

Prima Stein, a clinical dietitian at the Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem replies:

We have checked this in our lab: Boiling water does significantly reduce the amount of calcium and sodium.

But for people who have a tendency to form kidney stones, it may actually be an advantage to drink boiled water with less calcium in it. There is so much sodium in our diet, especially prepared food, that the amount boiled away is not significant.

In general, the water in Israel is of good quality and doesn't need to be boiled.

You should check with your municipality about the quality of your water. Except for cases in which water has been contaminated, there is no reason to boil drinking water.

I suffered damage to my spinal cord in a car accident more than two decades ago, and it affects my walking. I remember reading of a new way to determine the "viability" of spinal nerves. My orthopedic surgeon tells me that if the nerves that have been compressed by my crushed vertebrae are still "vital" (that is, they haven't atrophied), there is a chance that removing the pressure could vastly improve my walking. Is there any way to get an idea of the nerves' condition before an operation? N.E., Jerusalem.

Prof. Roland Chisin, head of the nuclear medicine department of Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem, adds:

We have a positron-emission tomography scanner that looks at the metabolic functioning of muscles and brain tissue, for example. But it's unable to see nerves because of the degree of resolution needed for this. A MRI (magnetic resonance imager) can see physical damage, but not nerve function. Unfortunately, if muscles have not been working for two decades, they would be hopelessly atrophied, so if the nerve could miraculously regain function, there wouldn't be viable muscle for the nerve to move.

Rx For Readers welcomes queries from readers about medical problems. Experts will answer those we find most interesting, and replies will be printed in the twice-monthly column on the Health Page. Write Rx For Readers, The Jerusalem Post, P.O. Box 81, Jerusalem 91000. Fax it to 02-5389527 or e-mail it to justie@jpost.co.il, giving your initials, age and place of residence. Phoned-in queries will not be accepted.

HEALTH SCAN

Municipalities start taking non-smokers seriously

By POST HEALTH REPORTER

Although many non-smokers still complain about inadequate enforcement of laws barring smoking in public places, the two largest municipalities have begun to take them seriously.

The Tel Aviv Municipality told the Israel Society for the Prevention of Smoking recently that last year it conducted 464 visits to restaurants and cafes and demanded that 139 of them hang signs restricting smoking to smoking areas.

Sixteen establishments were fined for violating the law. So far this year, there have been 358 visits. 56 demands for signs and 161 fines.

The Jerusalem Municipality says its enforcement program consists of making restaurant owners and workers aware of the law, so they can practice "citizen's arrest."

If a customer smokes in the non-smoking area, they can take the person's identity-card number and address and send it to the

municipality, which then fines the violator. (This tactic is easier than sending municipal inspectors to the site.)

Since the beginning of January 1996, 80 fines of NIS 230 each have been handed out to violators. One wonders, however, how enthusiastic restaurant owners are about complaining about their own customers - who probably won't come back to eat.

EYE SEE U, SPIDER Beware of pet tarantulas. The British Medical Journal warned recently that these spiders are becoming increasingly popular as pets (funny, those Brits!). They are widely available, easily maintained, quiet and considered harmless, as many do not produce venom.

However, the popular American varieties that are less venomous are also hairy.

They leave these hairs on their webs to "flick" at predators. As a result, some people who "pet" their pets have been coming down with eye diseases.

Three patients at Ninewells Hospital in Dundee, Scotland, arrived with complaints of "itchy, gritty, red eyes." After taking a clinical history, the doctors realized that all three had previously handled a tarantula.

In all of them, the right eye was more affected than the left; all of the patients were right handed. One case responded quickly to a steroid ointment, but the other two patients developed progressive pan-uveitis that continued to affect them two and even three years later.

An electron-microscope photograph in the medical journal shows that the spider hairs have sharp points and barbs, which cause ocular inflammation and damage to the cornea.

If people must handle tarantulas, the doctors advise wearing gloves, not rubbing the eyes and thoroughly washing hands after handling to minimize transfer of the hairs.

In addition, doctors say tarantula vendors should be told to warn customers about proper handling.

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Spend a day away-from-it-all on one of Shorashim's entertaining and enlightening English speaking trips. You'll meet your sort of people, visit off-the-beaten-track places and hear interesting and informative explanations from expert guides.

Tuesday Sept. 30 RETURN TO BEIT SHEAN
Thousands of years of history - Greek, Roman, pagan, Jewish - now revealed for all to see. Theaters, temples, bath-houses, markets, frescoes, houses of ill-repute. All the beauty and cruelty that paganism offered. Even if you've been before, come again, because so much more has now been revealed, including the "Mona Lisa," in one of the world's most successful digs. NIS 190 (including lunch)
Tour guide: Israel Shalem

Monday Oct. 6 THE WARM SMELL OF FRESH BREAD
We're going to spend a wonderful day in the Galilee seeing how the "staff of life" is prepared in different cultures. Kibbutz Harduf, organic and biodynamic, the ancient windmill in Nahal Zipori, Kiryat Ata's modern, industrial bakery, and then with the Beduin and researcher Steven Fulder on its meaning in our life. NIS 230, including lunch
Tour guide: Yuval Avidor

Sunday Oct. 12 A WATERWALK WITH JOEL ROSKIN
Join geologist, geographer and well-known tour writer Joel Roskin on a fabulous waterwalk through Nahal Zalmon and the Jordan River canyon. Beginning at a Crusader castle, through streams and rivers, between green vegetation. Five hours of sheer delight. NIS 165

Monday Nov. 3 THE STORIES OF SAFED
When Rabbi Yitzhak Luria, known as the Ari, walked through Safed's narrow streets, not a day passed without a miracle. We join a local guide, an expert on the town, who reveals the special atmosphere, the unique tastes and smells, and tells us the tales we all want to hear. NIS 210 including lunch
Tour guide: Israel Shalem

The tour price includes transportation from Jerusalem or Tel Aviv and return, entrance to all sites, background lectures and on-the-spot explanations. Lunch as indicated. 10% discount when you book all four tours. Pick-up and drop-off along the route when possible and arranged beforehand.

Reservations and further information:
SHORASHIM, POB 7588, 14 Rehov Abarbanel, Rehavia, Jerusalem 91074.
Tel. 02-566-6231 (9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.)
Ask for Michal, Vered or Varda.

In these times you cannot AFFORD to be without THE JERUSALEM POST

Vertical text on the left margin containing various small notices and contact information.

National Football League Individual Leaders Through Week 2

American Football Conference

Table with columns: Player, Team, Att, Com, Yds, TD, Int. Rows include Bledsoe, N.E., Elway, Den., O'Donnell, N.Y., etc.

Table with columns: Player, Team, Att, Yds, Avg, LG, TD. Rows include George, Ten., Davis, Den., Martin, Ten., etc.

Table with columns: Player, Team, No, Yds, Avg, LG, TD. Rows include T. Brown, Oak., Pickens, Cin., Jackson, Bal., etc.

Table with columns: Player, Team, No, Yds, Avg, LG, TD. Rows include Jordan, Mia., Gordon, Den., Tasker, Buf., etc.

Table with columns: Player, Team, No, Yds, Avg, LG, TD. Rows include Glenn, N.Y.-J., Hebron, Den., Spikes, Mia., etc.

Table with columns: Player, Team, TD, Rush, Rec, Ret, Pts. Rows include T. Brown, Oak., George, Ten., Smith, Jac., etc.

Table with columns: Player, Team, No, Yds, LG, Avg. Rows include Tupa, NE., Barke, Jac., Gardner, Ind., etc.

Table with columns: Player, Team, PAT, FG, LG, Pts. Rows include Elam, Den., Hall, N.Y.-J., Tasker, Buf., etc.

Table with columns: Player, Team, Att, Com, Yds, TD, Int. Rows include Alkman, Dal., Johnson, Min., Otter, Tex., etc.

Table with columns: Player, Team, Att, Yds, Avg, LG, TD. Rows include R. Smith, Min., Johnson, Cin., E. Smith, Dal., etc.

Table with columns: Player, Team, No, Yds, Avg, LG, TD. Rows include Carter, Min., R. Moore, Ariz., Moore, Det., etc.

Table with columns: Player, Team, No, Yds, Avg, LG, TD. Rows include Sanders, Dal., Palmer, Min., Hollis, Jac., etc.

Table with columns: Player, Team, Att, Com, Yds, TD, Int. Rows include Gifford, N.O., Mitchell, Was., Bates, Car., etc.

Table with columns: Player, Team, TD, Rush, Rec, Ret, Pts. Rows include X. Harris, Chi., Phillips, St., Allen, Was., etc.

Table with columns: Player, Team, No, Yds, LG, Avg. Rows include Jett, Det., Boyls, Ind., Gowan, Dal., etc.

Table with columns: Player, Team, PAT, FG, LG, Pts. Rows include Cunningham, Dal., Langwell, G., Williams, St., etc.

Table with columns: Team, W, L, T, Pct, PF, PA. Rows include Miami, New England, Buffalo, N.Y. Jets, etc.

Table with columns: Team, W, L, T, Pct, PF, PA. Rows include Arizona, Dallas, N.Y. Giants, Philadelphia, Washington, etc.

Table with columns: Team, W, L, T, Pct, PF, PA. Rows include Tampa Bay, Detroit, Green Bay, Chicago, West, etc.

Table with columns: Team, W, L, T, Pct, PF, PA. Rows include Carolina, St. Louis, San Francisco, Atlanta, New Orleans, etc.

Pack adjusting to being the hunted

GREEN BAY (AP) - Dorsey Levens says it's pretty simple. "You turn on your TV all the time and it's something about the Packers," the Green Bay halfback said.

CLASSIFIEDS

RATES - All rates include VAT. Single Weekly - NIS 134.56 for 10 words (minimum), each additional word NIS 13.45.

DWELLINGS Jerusalem Area. HOLIDAY RENTALS. MAYOT, 2 BEDROOM, kosher, 1st floor, fully furnished & equipped.

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1994 ALFA 33, station, 1.3, manual, air conditioning, electric window, 80,000 km., roof, Pirelli body, very fast, 89000, Coln. Tel. 09-742-6517, 052-423327.

DWELLINGS General. WHERE TO STAY. THE JERUSALEM INN at the City Center - double or large family rooms private bathroom, T.V., telephone quality linens.

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ISRAELI SHARES IN NEW YORK

LAST CHANGE

AMEX table with columns for company name, price, and change. Includes Amgen, Amgen Biotech, Amgen Health.

NASDAQ

NASDAQ table with columns for company name, price, and change. Includes Amgen, Amgen Biotech, Amgen Health.

NYSE

NYSE table with columns for company name, price, and change.

INTERNATIONAL SHARES

NEW YORK

Table of international share prices including Amgen, Amgen Biotech, Amgen Health.

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US stocks bonds rally

Wall Street

US stocks and bonds rallied Friday with the Nasdaq index of high-technology and smaller stocks rising to a record.

Europe

London's FTSE ended 6.6 points off after five days of successive declines which more than wiped out the gains of last week's five successive advances.

Asia

Tokyo stock prices tumbled Friday morning, dampened by an overnight fall on Wall Street and the sluggish Japanese economy.

Stocks

Dow Jones 7743 ▲ 1.07%

Nikkei 17,917.7 ▼ 1.59%

FTSE 4848.2 ▼ 0.14%

Amex 681.5 ▲ 0.5

Nasdaq 2,318.4 ▲ 1.25

US 10yr T-bond 6.59

3-month Treasury 4.58

Oil futures 29.05

Gold futures 340.85

Silver futures 6.00

Copper futures 1.97

Wheat futures 6.75

Yield curve

3-month 4.58

1-year 4.87

2-year 5.25

5-year 5.87

10-year 6.59

20-year 7.37

30-year 8.12

Amex 681.5 ▲ 0.5

Nasdaq 2,318.4 ▲ 1.25

US 10yr T-bond 6.59

3-month Treasury 4.58

Oil futures 29.05

Gold futures 340.85

Silver futures 6.00

Copper futures 1.97

Wheat futures 6.75

Yield curve

3-month 4.58

FINANCIAL MARKETS

LONDON

Table of London stock market data including Amex, Nasdaq, and US 10yr T-bond.

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Table of Paris stock market data including Amex, Nasdaq, and US 10yr T-bond.

FRANKFURT

Table of Frankfurt stock market data including Amex, Nasdaq, and US 10yr T-bond.

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LONDON METAL FIXES

Table of London metal fixes prices including Silver, Gold, and Platinum.

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SPOT MARKET METALS (US)

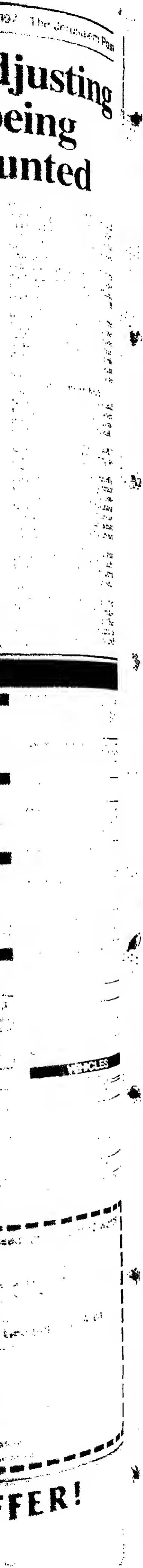
Table of spot market metals prices including Silver, Gold, and Platinum.

NEW YORK METAL FUTURES

Table of New York metal futures prices including Silver, Gold, and Platinum.

LONDON METAL FIXES

Table of London metal fixes prices including Silver, Gold, and Platinum.



ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Table of Israel money market rates including Patah foreign currency deposit rates and Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

Emergency services and assistance information including police, fire, medical, and social services.

THE JERUSALEM POST SUNDAY COMICS

September 14, 1997 The Jerusalem Post

GARFIELD

WE'LL RETURN AFTER THIS MESSAGE FROM OUR SPONSOR.

NOW!

LOOK AT HIM GO! WHAT FOOH! WHAT FROGGION!

...WHAT GRACE!

AND THEN HE CHOKES IN THE FROGGION!

NOW BACK TO OUR SHOW...

PEANUTS

SURE, IT'S ALWAYS ME, ISN'T IT?

DILBERT

BY SCOTT ADAMS

CAROL, I FORGET... HOW DO I ADDRESS AN ENVELOPE?

I'LL DO IT.

I'M TRAINING HIM TO BE HELPLESS.

IT'S PART OF MY MASTER PLAN TO ELIMINATE HIM.

I DO EVERYTHING FOR HIM. SOON HE'LL LOSE HIS ABILITY TO SOLVE SMALL PROBLEMS ALONE.

THEN I'LL "ACCIDENTALLY" BOOK HIM ON A ONE-WAY TRIP TO SOUTH KOREA.

BEFORE HE GOES, I'LL TELL HIM THEY HAVE A DEATH PENALTY FOR SPEAKING ENGLISH.

WE'LL NEVER SEE HIM AGAIN. BUWAHAHA!!!

IT'S WORTH A SHOT.

CAROL, WHAT DO I DIAL FOR AN OUTSIDE LINE?

I'LL DO IT.

ALL RIGHT, IF THAT'S THE WAY EVERYBODY FEELS, I'LL LEAVE!

I KNOW WHEN I'M NOT WANTED! I KNOW WHEN I'M NOT LOVED! I KNOW WHEN EVERYONE IS AGAINST ME!

WHEN?

WHEN?! WHAT DO YOU MEAN, WHEN?!

I MEAN, DID YOU KNOW THE EXACT MOMENT WHEN YOU WEREN'T WANTED, AND NOT LOVED, AND EVERYONE WAS AGAINST YOU?

OR DID YOU MAYBE HAVE THE FEELING COMING ON LAST WEEK OR LAST MONTH, OR MAYBE...

FOR INSTANCE, I KNEW THE EXACT MOMENT WHEN I WAS OVERDOING IT.

Doonesbury

BY G. B. TRUDEAU

FEEFFER

I CAN'T MAKE A COMMITMENT.

TO SCHOOL...

TO CAREER PLANS...

TO RELATIONSHIPS...

TO WHAT MY PARENTS CALL "A CODE OF VALUES."

I CAN'T MAKE A COMMITMENT TO ANYTHING.

AND THE MORE I THINK ABOUT IT...

THIS IS WHAT MAKES ME FREE!

IT'S A GOOD PLACE TO BE.

Doonesbury

BRIDGE REPORT: YES, I'D LIKE TO SIGN SOMEONE'S BRIDGE.

THE NAME OF THE BRIDGE?

MENT GENGROCH, HAS BEEN HAVING AN ISSUE WITH HIS PRESS SECRETARY.

OH, LET ME READ THIS BACK TO YOU: GENGROCH IS RUNNING A GUY DOWN OUT OF HIS PRESS OFFICE. (REMARKABLY CLOSE!)

OH, BEFORE I PUT THIS ON MY NEWS PAGES, I'LL GIVE YOU A HEADLINE: GENGROCH NEEDS HELP.

OH, CONGRATULATIONS! IT'LL GO UP SOON!

IT'LL BE IN EVERY NEWSROOM ON THE PLANET IN THREE MINUTES. THANKS FOR CALLING US!

IT'S IN PLAY FOR US.

THIS IS NEWS MEDIA?

Calvin and Hobbes

YOUR DAD'S WORKING, SO TRY NOT TO BOTHER HIM, OK?

DAD, I HAVE A QUESTION.

YES?

DO PEOPLE EVER SPONTANEOUSLY COMBUST?

UH... NOT THAT I KNOW OF, NO.

THAT'S A RELIEF. THANKS, DAD.

YOU'RE WELCOME.

DID I FOOL YOU?

IF YOU'RE HAVING TROUBLE THINKING OF WAYS TO MAKE YOURSELF USEFUL, I'LL GIVE YOU SOME SUGGESTIONS.

POW!

US senator fights TAAS contract

By HILDE KUTTLER

WASHINGTON - An American senator is urging Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to cancel a TAAS-Israel Industries contract to sell assault weapons in the US, calling them a danger to American citizens.

Dianne Feinstein, a California Democrat who led the successful 1994 campaign to pass legislation banning assault weapons, wrote to Netanyahu on Thursday to request his "personal intervention" in the matter.

"I find it sadly ironic that even as American military equipment and assistance travels to Israel intended to preserve peace and save lives, an Israeli weapons manufacturer is preparing to sell military-style assault weapons in the US that are designed not to protect, but to kill," she wrote.

Feinstein recently met with Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms officials to discuss the

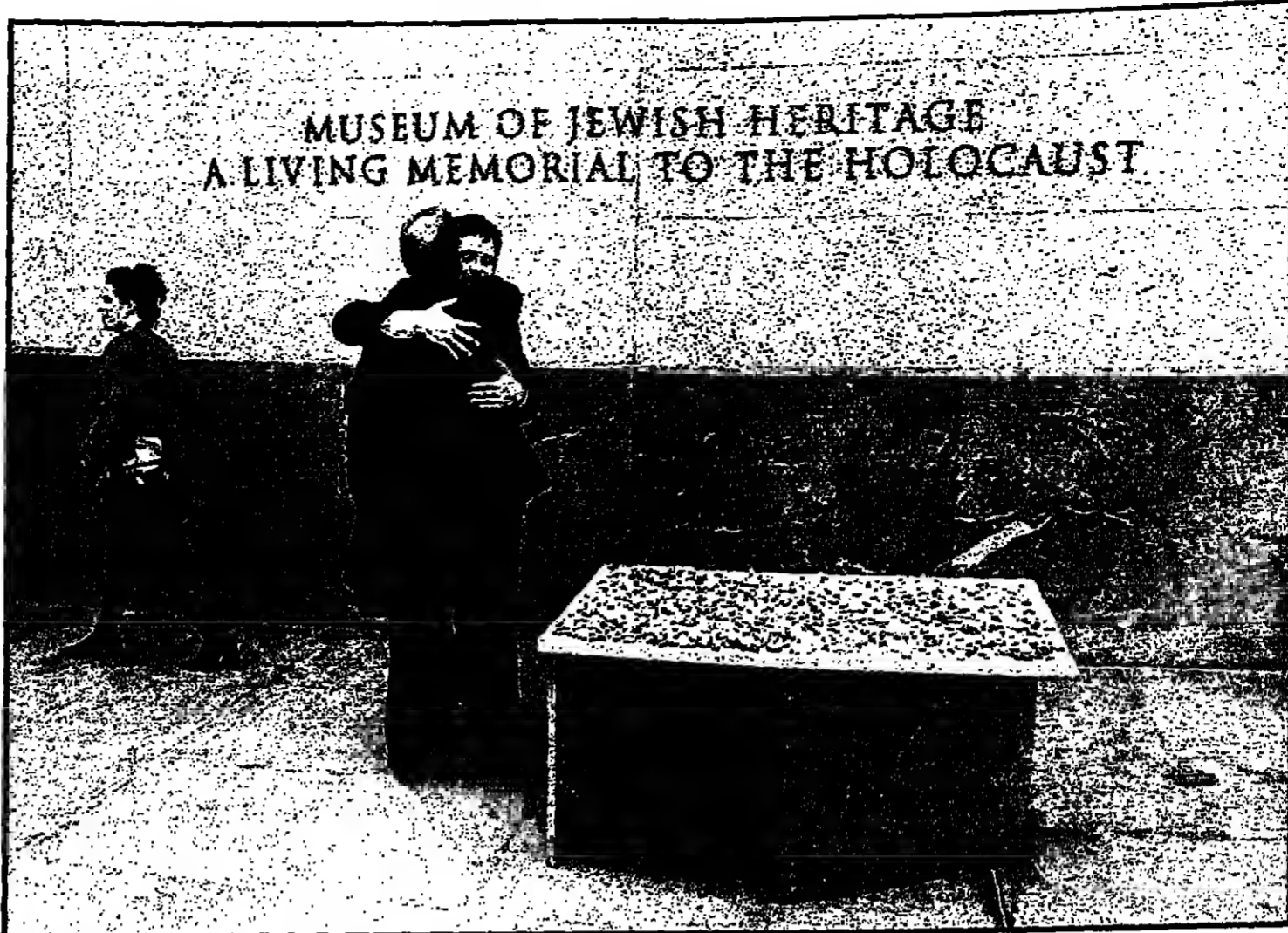
sale. She was told it does not violate the ban because the weapons have been sufficiently altered to comply with the law, according to Feinstein's spokeswoman Susan Kennedy.

Feinstein is unsatisfied, Kennedy said, because the modifications to the weapons are merely cosmetic.

Feinstein has a one-on-one meeting with President Bill Clinton scheduled this week and will seek his assistance in stopping the sale, Kennedy said.

Under the deal, "tens of thousands" of the Galil- and Uzi-like weapons are to be marketed through the American firm O.F. Mossberg and Sons, Feinstein stated.

A strong supporter of the peace process, Feinstein surprised many on Capitol Hill earlier this month when she said she no longer believes that Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat wants peace.



Dr. David Altschuler, director of the new Holocaust museum in New York, hugs David Mersky, who acted as a consultant for the project, following the institution's dedication on Thursday. The two had just placed stones on the table in front of the museum. (AP)

New York dedicates Holocaust museum

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK - New York dedicated its Holocaust museum on Thursday, a site, said Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel, to enter with anger but leave with affection.

"Enter this place, passerby, enter it with anger at those whose hate destroyed more than a million Jewish children," Wiesel said. "And above all, leave this place with affection - affection for the victims and for those whose burning passion it is, and remains, to remember."

The new museum with the tongue-tripping name, the Museum of Jewish Heritage - a Living Memorial to the Holocaust, officially opens tomorrow.

On Thursday, Communications Minister Limor Livnat, New York Governor George Pataki, Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and former mayor Ed Koch, along with several thousand

survivors, dedicated the site. The somber ceremony began soon after a drenching rain that some compared to the tears of the dead.

Located on the southern tip of Manhattan at the Hudson River, the museum occupies a site filled with symbolism. It overlooks the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, places that welcomed survivors but that barred refugees fleeing the Nazis.

Thursday's dedication of the \$21 million museum, the first public memorial to the Holocaust in the city, came 16 years after a New York City commission, appointed by Koch, recommended that it be built.

"I felt that somehow we were carrying out the wishes of those executed at Auschwitz," Koch said after touring the museum.

It was conceived with grand plans, but the museum was scaled down amid a struggle for financing after Manhattan's real estate market

collapsed a decade ago. It also endured skeptical questioning about whether it was redundant in light of the smashing success of the much larger US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington.

With 30,000 square feet in a hexagonal granite building, the New York museum's exhibits - including personal mementos and artifacts, survivor testimonies and documentary films - are arranged on three different floors that form a continuous narrative. They show Jewish life and culture from the late 19th century to the eve of Nazi era, the Holocaust and rebuilding Jewish life in the years since.

"We will mourn those who died, and honor those who survived, by depicting the beauty and significance of Jewish civilization and the miracle of its continuity during this tragic, yet transcendent, era," said David Altschuler, the museum's director.

Brandeis-Bardin Institute celebrates its reconstruction

By TOM TUGEND

LOS ANGELES - The Brandeis-Bardin Institute, devastated by the 1994 Northridge earthquake, will celebrate its reconstruction at a community-wide event today.

The earthquake inflicted some \$11 million in damage. Following an intensive, three-year fund-raising campaign, augmented by government aid, BBI now has risen from the rubble.

The celebration will focus on the dedication of the new Arts and Conference Center. The large center, whose design has been bon-

ored by a professional architectural award, encompasses facilities for the performing arts, dining, administration and a library. A dance plaza and sleeping cottages also have been added.

This year also marks BBI's fifth anniversary at its present 3,100 acre rustic site in southern California's Simi Valley.

BBI is best known for its Brandeis Collegiate Institute, which provides a month-long total immersion into Jewish life for its 18- to 26-year-old participants from around the world, but its programs now range from kindergarten to Elderhostels.

New fund for Holocaust survivors proposed

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK - Britain, the United States and France on Friday

proposed setting up a new fund, with \$60 million, to aid survivors of World War II, US Undersecretary of State Stuart

Eizenstat said in Brussels.

The Brussels announcement, however, came as the Swiss humanitarian fund apparently hit another snag that will delay assistance to survivors, sources said.

Swiss fund officials, including nine representatives of the World Jewish Restitution Organization, are scheduled to meet tomorrow to allocate more than \$10 million to needy survivors in Eastern Europe. At week's end, however, word came that the Jewish delegates would not attend, citing assorted scheduling conflicts and illnesses.

Swiss sources, who declined to be named, said yesterday that the meeting would convene, with all Swiss members. Without a quorum, however, no allocations could be made.

"Unless we understand, but a problem with the schedule? For everyone? This meeting was set in July," said one Swiss source. "We

announced in July that we were going to give out this money, that survivors need it, and without a quorum, we cannot give it out. Don't they care about survivors?"

In Brussels, officials of the Tripartite Gold Commission said the initial basis of their proposed fund would be \$60 million in so-called "residual gold" held by the commission. They also proposed that the post-war claimants for the gold - Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland and Slovakia - make voluntary contributions to the new fund.

The commission was set up after the war to return to the central banks of Europe gold that had been looted by the Nazis. The \$60 million is the amount remaining after the primary claims were settled - most of which were concluded 40 years ago.

Panel: Surgeon not at fault for boy's death

Says medical team was very dedicated to operation

By JUDY SEGEL

The Health Ministry has accepted the recommendations of a committee it appointed last month to investigate the 1995 death of a two-year-old boy in a Petah Tikva hospital and will not take any action against medical staffers. The committee found no significant fault in the behavior of a surgeon who left the public hospital to perform surgery on another patient in a private hospital.

The committee - Prof. Shmuel Kotev of Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem

and Dr. Shimon Sherf of Barzilai Hospital in Ashkelon - looked into the case of M.A., of Kfar Ata, who was born with serious congenital heart defects and at the age of four months underwent surgery at Schneider Children's Medical Center for Israel and another operation five months later.

Then, in December 1995, Prof. Bernardo Vidne, a senior heart surgeon at SCMC and the Rabin Medical Center-Beilinson Campus, performed an operation. M.A. was in critical condition and moved to the intensive care unit, after which Vidne left the hospital to operate on a man in the private Herzliya Medical Center. The toddler's condition deteriorated, and another surgeon did a second operation the same day, but he died soon after.

Anonymous letters sent to the Health Ministry claimed that Vidne had left the boy's operation before it ended, and that the "delay" in finding another surgeon for the second operation was responsible for his death.

The committee questioned all relevant witnesses and concluded that the SCMC team was very dedicated to saving the boy. "If there were any mistakes, they resulted from errors in medical judgement and not negligence," the committee concluded.

It may be that the decision to do the second operation came a bit too late, it added. Still the committee did not find any behavioral or ethical fault in Vidne or his team.

WEATHER

Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear. An additional rise in temperatures.

Winning cards

In Friday's Chance drawing, the winning cards were the 9 of spades, 9 of hearts, jack of diamonds, and jack of clubs.

Lithuania criticizes Israel on Gaon celebrations

VILNIUS (Reuters) - Lithuania criticized Israel on Friday for paying scant attention to a series of state-sponsored events marking the death 200 years ago of the Vilna Gaon.

"The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania also regrets the fact that the attention of the Israeli government to the jubilee events of the Vilna Gaon was insufficient," the ministry said in a statement.

In a veiled reference to Israeli Ambassador Oded Ben-Hur, the ministry also said some speakers at a special parliamentary session to open the celebrations had made "regrettable" statements.

Ben-Hur attacked Lithuania's record on prosecuting alleged war criminals during his address to parliament and said ordinary Lithuanians had been willing accomplices in the Holocaust.

"At the same time it is regrettable that some statements, made during a solemn Seimas [parliament] sitting, were not in accordance with the solemn atmosphere and aggravated the efforts to improve bilateral understanding," the ministry said.

Leading politician Romualdas Ozolas, deputy speaker of parliament, also attacked Ben-Hur. Ozolas said he had applied to the president and Foreign Ministry, asking them to discuss with the Israeli authorities replacing the ambassador.

The events honoring the Gaon had angered some Jewish groups, who resent the presence of the alleged war criminals in Lithuania.

The most notorious is Aleksandras Lileikis, head of the Vilnius security police in Nazi-occupied Lithuania, who is alleged to have handed over many Jews to be murdered.

Historians say 94 percent of Lithuania's pre-war Jewish population of 220,000 was murdered during the Holocaust; but, the extent of local collaboration is still a cause of controversy.

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Last date for submitting bids: October 13, 1997 at 11 a.m.

Please note: The offices of the Israel Electric Corporation will be closed for Rosh Hashana on October 1-2, 1997.

Additional participation pre-conditions:
A. Participation in the tender is also subject to complying with the preliminary conditions detailed in the Tender Regulations 1993, Para. 6(a) 1, 2, 3 (i.e., registration as required by law, compliance with mandatory specifications, and the holding of the permits required by law for transactions with public bodies)
B. The Israel Electric Corporation reserves the right to allow a bidder who has not provided all the required documents, permits, licenses, etc., to submit them within a specified time that will be set by the Corporation.

The tender documents may be obtained Sunday - Thursday, at the Import Department, 11 Sderot Pal-Yam, Haifa, Sunday to Thursday, between 9 a.m. and 12 noon, on submission of a receipt, demonstrating payment (non-refundable) for the documents into the Corporation's account at the Postal Bank. Payment slips for making such payments are obtainable at the above address by calling 04-868-7436 (Mr. Shlomo Daniel). Before purchasing the tender documents, they may be perused at the above office. Bids, submitted in a sealed envelope, should reach Room 511, 5th floor of the Pal Yam Building in Haifa (at the above address) by the last date for submitting bids, as stated above. No undertaking is given to accept the lowest or any bid.

NOTE: In appropriate cases, the Electric Corporation will give preference to suppliers, in accordance with the Tender Regulations (Preference for Locally Produced Goods, and Obligation to Extend Commercial Cooperation). The Electric Corporation reserves the right to negotiate, where this is legally permissible.

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